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THE TIMES

No. 64,473 MONDAY OCTOBER 26 1992 45p

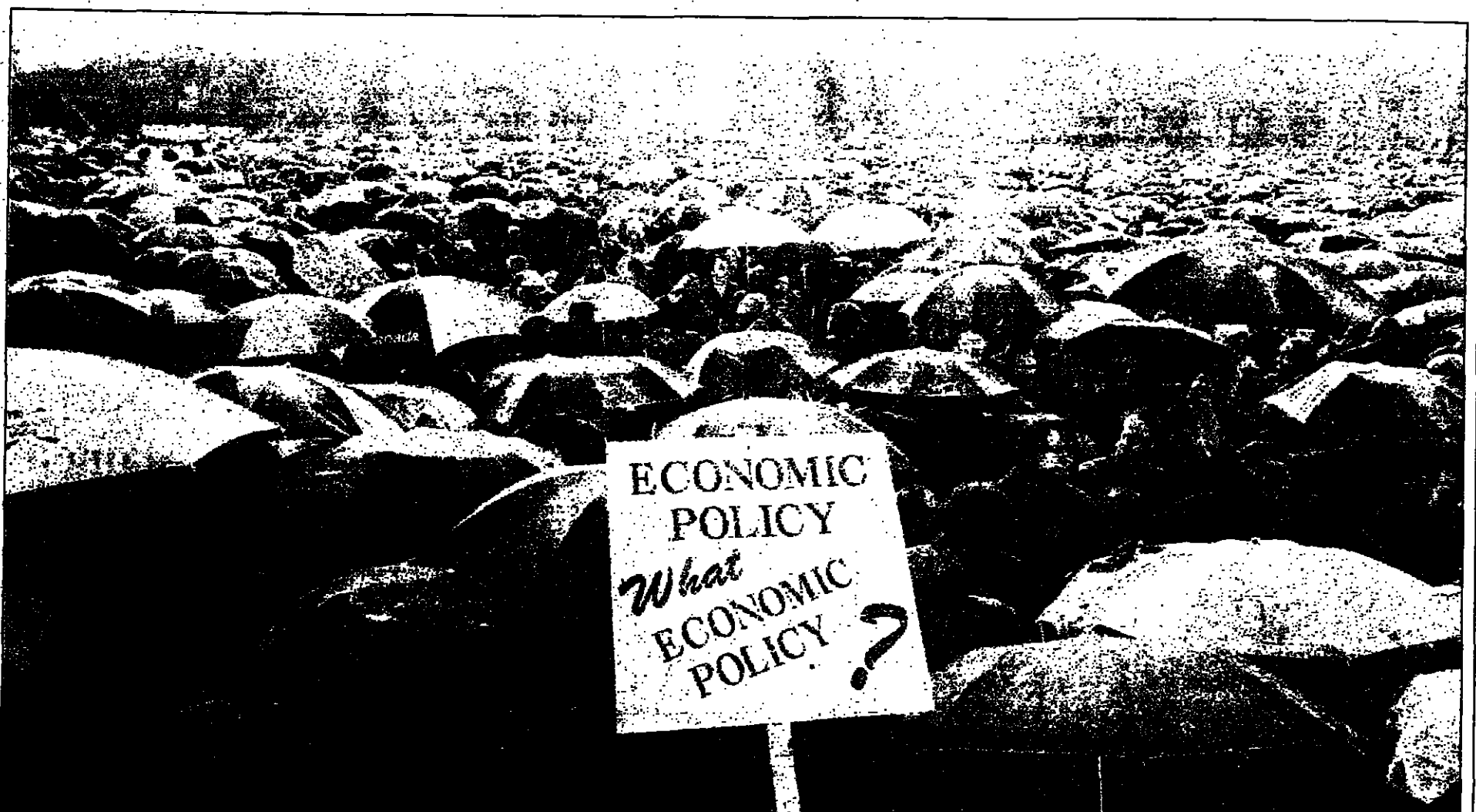
Tories warn Major: Election threat is set to backfire

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND SHERIL GUNN

JOHN Major reaffirmed his determination last night to risk the future of his government on the outcome of the Maastricht bill, in spite of warnings from senior party figures that his gamble could backfire badly on the Tory party.

As he flew back to London, the prime minister was unrepentant about his implicit threat to hold a general election if the bill fails. He was strongly supported by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary.

However, some ministers and advisers urged Downing Street to ease off yesterday as they fear that such bullish tactics could recoil on the government. One ministerial aide commented: "We could not believe it when we saw the prime minister doing this, as it hands Labour the opportunity to do a U-turn and vote against us. It also gives the impression he is obsessed with



In the London rain: Around 200,000 miners and supporters defy torrential rain and wind to march in Hyde Park in one of the biggest demonstrations the capital has seen

Remembering in the desert

John Major and a German government minister presided over ceremonies in the desert yesterday, marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. Page 2

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Maastricht, which is the last thing we want to portray to the sceptics.

Mr Major's high-risk strategy of taking the future of his government on the outcome of the bill appeared to do little to deter the Conservative rebels who threatened to vote against Maastricht during the November 4 paving debate and in the subsequent stage this week. The party's business minister, Lord Young, said today in a speech that the tactics have paid off and if it is time to soften the line. The Foreign Office will also publish a booklet on the Maastricht treaty this week, which has been described by one adviser as "an idiot's guide".

In a BBC interview yesterday the prime minister spoke about the economy and dropped heavy hints that interest rates would be brought down. However, he appeared to rule out an early return to the European exchange-rate mechanism.

"Every 1 per cent off interest rates is worth £1 billion to

industry," he said. "Every 1 per cent off interest rates means more money in the pockets of people with mortgages to spend in the high streets." The prime minister added that further cuts would be made when it was prudent to do so and tight restraints on public spending would be maintained.

As the Conservative dispute over Europe entered a new, menacing phase, the prime minister's aides made clear that they believed his threat to call a snap election if he loses the Maastricht bill this winter has worked. "The message has got across where it's needed," said one senior British official travelling with the prime minister as he flew back to London from Egypt. There was, however, some apprehension within his entourage as Mr Major returned from the commemorative services to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the victory at El Alamein.

Mr Major has been considering whether he should make a television broadcast to explain to voters his enthusiasm for the treaty. He has, however, held back so far for fear that such a move would be seen as an admission that he faced another crisis and was resorting to panic measures.

Mr Major also wants to



In the desert sun: John Major and the French Prime Minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, lay wreaths at Alamein

200,000 marching in the rain for miners

By PETER VICTOR AND JOHN VINCENT

THE largest demonstration in the capital's recent history yesterday saw up to 200,000 people march through central London for a rally in Hyde Park to urge the government to abandon pit closures.

In scenes reminiscent of the Pavarotti in the Park concert, demonstrators from all over the country hunched under anorak hoods and umbrellas and surrounded by muddy pools of water in torrential rain, to hear John Smith, the Labour leader, demand that John Major visits the pits earmarked for closure.

The two-mile march from the Embankment to Hyde Park Corner was headed by TUC stewards, followed by miners from Selby, Yorkshire, and prominent members of the Labour party, including Margaret Beckett, the deputy leader. The stream of marchers took several hours to file into the park. Bands, including a Scots pipe corps, a brass ensemble and some playing Third World drum music, lifted dampened spirits.

Actors such as Frances de la Tour, members of the cast of *London's Burning* and Billy Bragg, the singer-songwriter, marched together with politicians, trade unionists and families out to express their support for the miners.

The Labour leader did not join the masses in the downpour but was waiting at the platform. Mr Smith challenged the prime minister to visit a coalfield. "Ask about the reserves of coal which would be abandoned, and think about the suppliers and all these British companies and workers who would lose their jobs." To cheers he added: "Speak to the miners whose skills are unique and irreplaceable, and above all visit their families and think of what will happen to them."

Last night, Downing Street said Mr Major had not been to a mine during his office as prime minister.

US plots French revenge

AMERICA is preparing to impose import tariffs of \$300 million on French products by the first week of December, in retaliation against European Community farm subsidies (Martin Fletcher writes). If the EC does not retreat, tariffs will be expanded to cover \$1 billion in EC goods, probably triggering a transatlantic trade war and killing any hope of a Gatt deal. The Bush administration believes Paris principally responsible for the breakdown of talks aimed at reducing EC subsidies which have prevented conclusion of a 108-nation Gatt deal Page 12

Making a billion, page 38

Don't hold your breath, the world will end on August 14

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AUGUST 14, 2116 was tentatively pencilled into the calendar yesterday as a date for Armageddon.

While some believe man-made pollution or a nuclear war may bring civilisation to a close, the end of the world is more likely to come in the shape of a huge chunk of ice and dust called Swift-Tuttle's comet, the second Australian Space Development Conference was told yesterday.

New calculations of the orbit of the comet, which was rediscovered this year and is believed responsible for the annual meteor shower known as the Perseids, indicate that its likely date of impact with Earth is August 14, 2116, said David Steel of the Anglo-Australian Observatory. It is not known if the collision will come in the morning or afternoon.

Bush-Clinton gap 5 points

The gap between President Bush and Bill Clinton closed to single figures in opinion polls at the weekend. A surge of support for Ross Perot began to threaten Mr Clinton's decisive advantage, with a CBS-New York Times poll cutting his lead to just five points. The Democrat contender scored 40 per cent, Mr Bush 35 and Mr Perot 15 per cent in the poll. Mr Perot alleged yesterday that he had been driven from the campaign in July by Republican dirty tricks. Page 13

Female legions, page 14

Thief and fraud on a grand scale is revealed in an EC report by 12 financial experts. A draft of the next annual report of the EC's Court of Auditors uncovers slack financial monitoring and widespread waste of public money. Page 9



ON SALE FROM 22nd OCT.

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Michael Palin's epic trip

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Prime minister finds new friends in the desert and new enemies closer to home

Major plays for high stakes with threat to call an election

By PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

THREATS of a general election if the government loses the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty should not be taken too seriously. They are part of a propaganda campaign ahead of the Commons debate on November 4 that will pave the way for the start of the committee stage later that month.

Everyone is sabre-rattling: John Major with his warnings of what might happen if the government is defeated as much as Tory opponents of the bill with their claims that this is a one-off issue. The Labour leadership is caught between its reluctance to compromise its pro-European Community credentials and its desire to take advantage of Mr Major's difficulties by joining Tory Euro-sceptics to defeat the government.

If the government lost the vote next week, Mr Major would immediately seek a vote of confidence from the Commons, which he would win. He has been careful to seek cabinet approval for each stage of his European policy, as he did again last Thursday. In theory, the whole cabinet would take responsibility. But the bill could also run into the ground in the spring after little

■ Everyone is sabre-rattling over Europe: the cabinet with its dire warnings of defeat and Tory opponents, claiming it is a one-off issue

progress. The government might not be able to secure a guillotine.

But, on what he has turned into an issue of personal confidence, Mr Major's authority would be substantially, and possibly fatally, weakened by a defeat on November 4 or a stalemate next spring. Alternative Tory leaders are all even more committed to the Community than him.

The threat to call an election may stiffen Labour's resolve and anyway is implausible given the government's unpopularity over the economy. However, on past constitutional precedent, a prime minister with a majority in the Commons, as Mr Major could demonstrate by a confidence motion, can seek a dissolution of parliament and a fresh election almost at any stage, using the pretext of such a central issue. Stanley Baldwin did so in 1923, just a year after the previous general election.

The Tories adopted a tariff reform platform, and were defeated, opening the way for the first Labour government. The other two precedents of

governments with overall majorities, admittedly very small ones, going to the country within two years of a previous general election are 1951, when Labour lost, and 1966, when Labour won.

Even if the election threat is an empty one, the government would be seriously damaged by the defeat of the Maastricht bill whatever happened on a confidence vote. The Euro-sceptics are being disingenuous, and in some cases hypocritical, in pretending that their vote on the bill does not affect the government's long-term position, or their affection for Mr Major himself. Many would privately be delighted to get rid of him.

The odds are that the government will win next week and that the bill will be ratified. But the stakes are high. Ministers are reminding Tory MPs of what they stand to lose by opposing Maastricht. In the process, they are leaving themselves little way out.

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Veteran returns: John Major chats with Alf Sutton, 75, a New Zealander who lost both legs in 1942

Labour plays guessing game

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership made clear yesterday that it will not rescue John Major if he makes votes on the Maastricht treaty an issue of confidence in himself and his government.

As the political poker game over Europe intensified, Labour is refusing to play into Mr Major's hands by declaring its tactics in the crucial votes on the treaty. Although key party figures hinted at a softening in Labour's pro-Maastricht line, John Smith, the Labour leader, is sanding firm behind a "keep them guessing" strategy.

However, the sources conceded that Mr Major's high-risk "back me or sack me" tactics on Maastricht would be treated differently as Labour was not in the business of saving Mr Major's skin. Mr Smith and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, are loath to appear opportunistic by jettisoning their European policies and siding with Tory Euro-sceptics. However, there were fresh demands within Labour's ranks yesterday that any chance to bring down the government over Europe must not be allowed to slip away.

Wednesday's shadow cabinet meeting is expected to draw up contingency plans for the paving debate in the Commons on Maastricht on November 4 and the line-by-line committee stage, starting in late November. However, until Labour leaders see the wording of the motion for debate and the amendments to the bill, no battle plan can be finalised.

Among Labour's options is to vote against the government because the bill is being returned to the Commons before Denmark's position and the issue of subsidiarity have been cleared up. An alternative could be to vote against the bill at some stage in protest at Britain's opt-outs on monetary union and the social chapter.

"We are not shifting our ground: the prime minister is shifting his," a senior Labour aide said yesterday. "Our strategy is to keep them guessing. We will say nothing until we have to."

The prime minister is more likely to be backed by the 20 Liberal Democrat MPs. An Ashdown aide said: "We want to do what we can to get the treaty ratified so we are not going to play silly buggers as Labour seems to be doing. Our tactics are designed to try to get the treaty ratified as quickly as possible."

Major opens poppy appeal at El Alamein

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EL ALAMEIN

A VARIED cast including the Duke of Kent, John Major, a minor German cabinet minister, Sir Harry Secombe, 2,000 veterans and Mohammed, purveyor of overpriced commemorative T-shirts, gathered under the cruel desert sun yesterday to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of El Alamein.

The German minister of research, Dr Heinz Riesenhuber, presided over the first of the two main ceremonies at the imposing hilltop memorial. With the sea shimmering to his left, and the bleak desert where over 200,000 fighting men had once gathered to his right, Dr Riesenhuber said: "Fifty years ago, members of our nations confronted each other here as enemies. Today we stand united at this historic site, commemorating the victims of that combat."

As well as grim memories of the battle, which began with the simultaneous firing of 1,900 heavy Eighth Army guns on the cloudless night of October 23, 1942, there were also reminiscences of lighter moments, drinking Stella beer at each Cairo club by the Pan Pan, the Melody and the Victory or eating ice-cream at Grupp's, his temperatures of 90 degrees many of the veterans gazed across the endless sand and wondered aloud how they had survived on rations of one pint of water a day.

Mr Major, who read a lesson from St John's gospel, also launched the 1992 poppy appeal by presenting poppies to three British women widowed in the battle.

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Thatcher comeback lined with pitfalls and traps

By JOHN GRIGG

ACCORDING to a report in *The Sunday Times*, "close friends" of Baroness Thatcher are suggesting that she might try to return as prime minister should John Major and his government be defeated on Maastricht in the House of Commons. All that would be needed, it is said, would be "for the Commons to pass a two-line bill allowing her to renounce her life peerage."

It would not, surely, be quite as simple as that. Mr Major has indicated that, if the Commons were to reverse its original vote in favour of Maastricht, he would go to the country; and there can be little doubt that if he were to ask for a dissolution the Queen would grant his request.

If all, or most of, his cabinet colleagues were to tell him they were utterly opposed to an appeal to the country in present circumstances, he might, it is true, decide to resign as prime minister rather than ask for a dissolution. But is there any reason to suppose that, in that event, Conservative MPs would turn to Lady Thatcher?

Only if a majority of them were suddenly to be converted to Lady Thatcher's views on the European Community (and to forget her massive contribution to the party's, and the country's, present weakness), would she be a serious candidate for the leadership. And then, even her strongest supporters might have good practical reasons for doubting the wisdom of voting for her.

Having made the mistake of accepting a peerage and forfeiting her base in the House of Commons, she would, if elected, have to serve at first as leader of the party and prime minister in the Lords or in neither house of Parliament. Though there is no constitu-

tional objection to such an arrangement, it is clearly undesirable in our democracy to have a prime minister not answerable to the Commons, even for a matter of weeks.

Moreover, would it be as easy as it was for Lord Home to secure democratic respectability by winning a seat in the Commons? Nowadays there are few, if any, safe seats, and anyway constituencies deeply resent being deprived of a member they have recently elected, to make way for some VIP who it may suit the party to foist on them.

Even if a sacrificial victim could be found occupying a seat that might appear to be safe, there could be no guarantee that she would win it. Quite apart from any personally adverse factors, a resentful constituency and the general state of politics today might combine to defeat her. The party would indeed be in a mess.

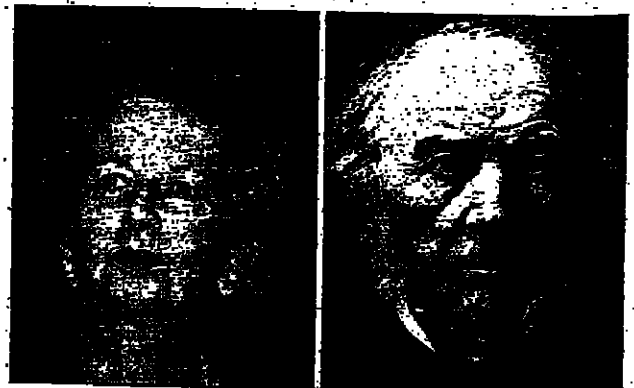
The most celebrated comeback by a former leader in modern British history is that of Gladstone in 1880. When his first government fell in 1874 he resigned the Liberal leadership, which was then exercised for a time by Lord Hartington (a courtesy title) in the House of Commons.

In 1879 he changed his seat

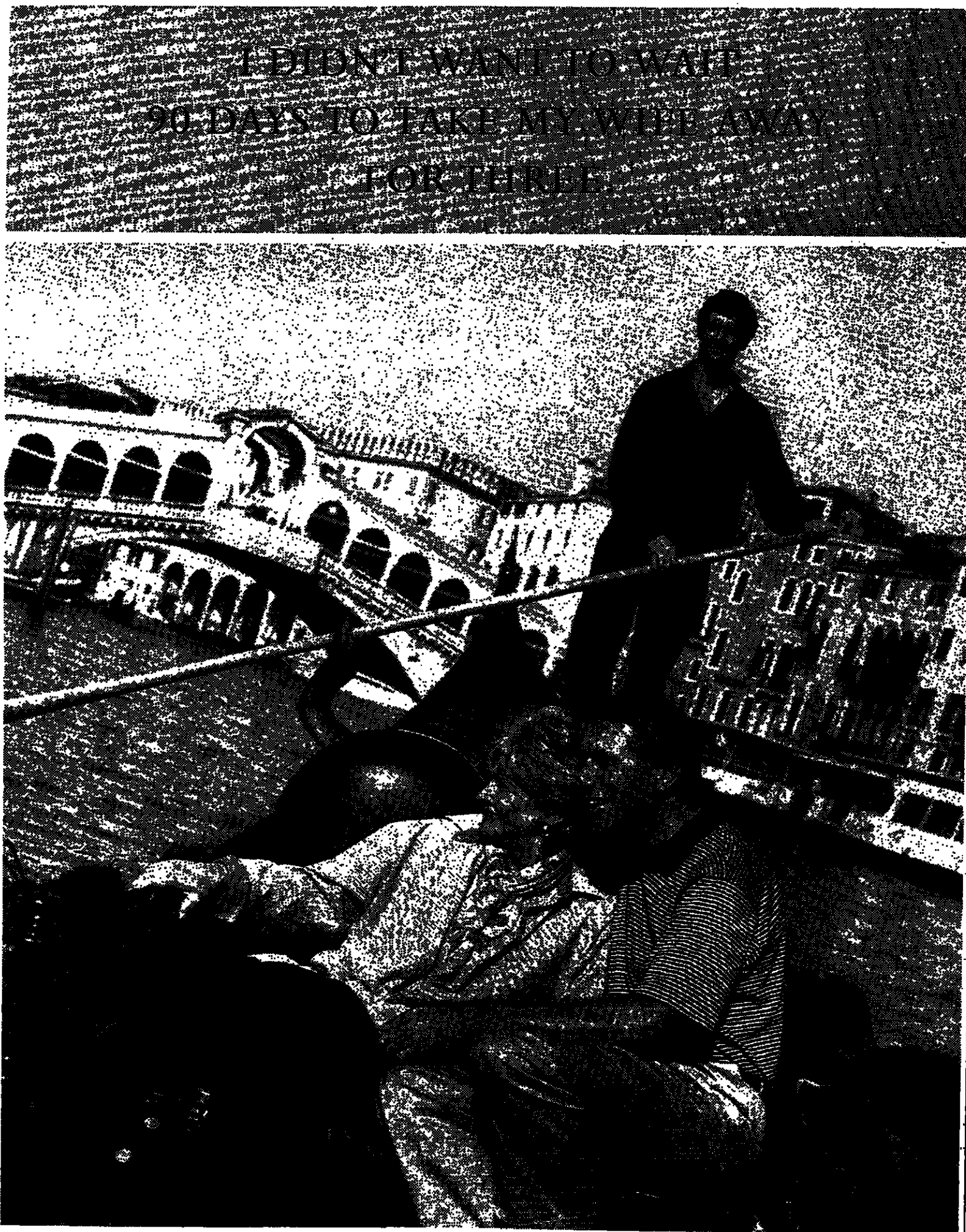
in dramatic circumstances, winning a sensational by-election at Midlothian, after stirring public opinion to the depths with his denunciations of Turkish atrocities, which he was able to associate with the foreign policy of the Tory prime minister, Disraeli. When the Liberals returned to power the following year, Gladstone was asked to come back as leader and became prime minister for the second time, with still two further premiership to go.

The Gladstonian precedent can be regarded as encouraging to Lady Thatcher only in one small respect: she was the same age, when she ceased to be prime minister, as Gladstone was in 1874. In other ways her situation is crucially different. Whereas Gladstone refused a peerage and stayed in the House of Commons, Lady Thatcher has taken the opposite course. Moreover, after 1874 the Liberals were in opposition, having lost a general election; today the Conservatives have recently won one.

If—which seems unlikely—Lady Thatcher manages to liberate herself from the House of Lords, one thing at least is sure: she will not follow Gladstone in seeking a by-election contest in Scotland.



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Memory lane: Stan Barstow adding recollections.

Instant book digs into black humour and bright memories

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

A JOKE is going round the pubs and working men's clubs of Grimethorpe. A huge factory is opening down the road, it says, and will employ 30,000 men to make 85,000 monthbells. The men will shovel the monthbells into the pit "and dig them up again when the politicians realise that we really do need British coal".

Humour, as black and bitter as the coal dust that coats

the pit shaft, abounds in the South Yorkshire village. The Yorkshire Art Circus set out to record it at the weekend, plus family histories, anecdotes and stories about the colliery's last days.

The first copies of the "book-in-a-day", produced from this raw material and submissions by artists, poets and writers, came off the presses 15 hours after the work began. They were sent to London yesterday to be read by miners on the march.

The book was conceived as part record and part weapon, a morale raiser in the fight against closure.

The art circus founder, Brian Lewis, acted on the request of Mel Dyke, the local secondary school deputy head, who felt that the village had a seam of history as rich as the coal and that the stories had to be recorded before it was too late. "We wanted to tell part of the life and, sadly, part of the death of a great little mining com-

munity like Grimethorpe," she said.

Her father had arrived in the 1930s as a "brilliant centre-forward" wooed by the pit football team. "That was another reason for doing this, for my father."

The Willowgarth school, perched on a hill overlooking the pit, had never received such attention. As project headquarters - British Coal would not let the writers use the pit canteen - it received visits from Rodney Bicker-

staffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, the Bishop of Wakefield, the Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch, and several MPs.

Messages of support came from Yorkshire's Michael Parkinson, Norman Willis, the general secretary of the TUC, the writers Barry Hines and Trevor Griffiths and the actor Brian Blessed. The author Stan Barstow worked away in a corner of the dining hall and an industrial artist, Harry Malkin, depicted the

scene in large strokes of charcoal.

Barstow, author of *A Kind of Loving*, said that the book-in-a-day was not supposed to be romantic or sentimental, but if the voices contained within it provoked an emotional response, so much the better. "It captures the oral testimony of what it was like and there is a great emotional charge, an emotional level which people are moved by and have latched on to already," he said.

London's march for miners brings out 200,000 protesters

BY PETER VICTOR
AND JOHN VINCENT

IN AN extraordinary demonstration of disaffection with government policies, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life marched through the centre of London yesterday to support miners who are facing the dole.

Twice as many people as expected braved inclement rain, in a rally which dwarfed those held when fury at the poll tax was at its height. Though many undoubtedly stayed at home because of heavy rain, Scotland Yard said it was the largest march and rally London had seen for many years.

Up to 200,000 people turned out. Thousands of others watched from the shelter of shop and hotel doorways as the rain-soaked protesters made their way to a Hyde Park ankle deep in mud. Leading Labour politicians, actors, broadcasters and pop stars marched shoulder to shoulder with bankers and boilermen, car workers and caretakers, doctors and dockers.

Many marched under the rain-soaked banners of the big unions. Many more represented smaller unions and a wide range of organisations. Rarely, if ever, have Port of London dockers marched in such harmony alongside the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, computer experts, teachers and insurance brokers alongside plumbers.

Despite the foul weather they turned out in vast numbers to strengthen the gale of protest sweeping through the government's policies

lorry drivers and postmen. Political lobbies, mainly from Labour and the Liberal Democrats, were much in evidence. A delegation of Monster Raving Loonies marched. Their leader, Screaming Lord Sutch, accompanied by a man in a Spitting Image-style John Major mask, proclaimed through a megaphone: "Only madmen close pits."

Bryn Jenkins left Penzance at 4.45am to ensure that his voice was heard on the march. Undeterred by a ten-hour, 600-mile round-trip, Mr Jenkins said: "It's worth it just to voice my protest on behalf of Cornwall, which has been very hard hit by the recession." Mr Jenkins has had a variety of jobs since being made redundant from his trade as a printer.

Des Trehearne, a Transport and General Workers' Union official in Gloucestershire, said his protest was about job losses in general. "It's not just the miners, it's building, engineering and health service workers and people in manufacturing industries."

Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which had between

5,000 and 10,000 members in the rally, said: "We believe something like half a million jobs have gone in the last year to 18 months from manufacturing and engineering."

John Akker, acting general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "People see the plight of the miners as symptomatic of a much wider malaise afflicting British society."

John Pitts, 34, travelled from Colchester, Essex, to register his "outrage" at jobs losses and Adrian Larkman, 30, of west London, who lost his job as a gardener with Westminster council on Friday, said: "I am here simply because I hate to see Britain going downhill."

BY NICHOLAS WATT

ASTUTE travellers on tomorrow's lunchtime flight from London to Strasbourg will notice an unlikely pair chatting to each other.

Arthur Scargill and Bill Jordan, two of the trade union movement's fiercest enemies, are joining forces to present



One voice: Norman Willis, the TUC leader, and John Smith, Labour's leader, sing Jerusalem at the rally

Union enemies unite as Scargill treads moderate path

the miners' case to the European Parliament's energy committee.

With memories of their clash at this month's Labour party conference fresh in his mind, Mr Jordan, leader of the AEU, is said to be delighted, if a little astonished, by the new moderate Mr Scargill. Some trade unionists have

been left wondering whether Mr Scargill's new moderate tone has been scripted by a Svengali-like figure. His performance at yesterday's rally in Hyde Park and over the last two weeks certainly suggest that a slick PR team is delicately guiding Mr Scargill's every step. But far from relying on a

PR team to spruce up his image the changes have come entirely from Mr Scargill. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, who has sparred with Mr Scargill in the past, praised him for meticulously following the decision of his union not to strike against the pit closures. At the weekend, Mr

Scargill was challenged by Dave Nellist, once one of the few MPs he supported, to explain the new approach.

His reply encapsulated the new Scargill philosophy. "We are on this occasion being supported by a wide section of the population," he told a rally for miners at New Arley in Warwickshire.

£300m for ill pitmen 'held back'

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR MP will demand a Commons statement today on allegations that the government is holding back publication of an official report calling for £300 million compensation for sick and dying miners.

Alf Morris, Labour's spokesman for the disabled and veteran campaigner for social rights, said yesterday that he believes ministers are delaying the report to save the cost of paying compensation to miners who contracted the respiratory diseases emphysema and bronchitis. About 50,000 miners are understood to be entitled to claim an average of £5,000 each.

Mr Morris's allegations are based on a leaked memorandum from an industry official warning ministers of the potential compensation costs of following the recommendations made by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council to ministers in August.

According to the memorandum, dated October 8, the longer the delay in legally resisting the claims, the lower the compensation costs because fewer miners would survive. The industry department refused to comment on the document.

Mr Morris said yesterday: "This is a shabby manoeuvre to cheat people who have been made chronically sick by their work. Many have to struggle to breathe and now have to pay even for the nebulisers that can ease their plight. Government inaction demonstrates again its contempt for Britain's miners."

DTI halts Guinness disclosures

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine halted the transmission last night of a Channel 4 documentary which was to disclose unpublished extracts from an investigation by the department of trade and industry into the 1986 Guinness scandal.

The trade secretary obtained an *ex parte* injunction on Saturday preventing last night's broadcast of the second part of *Greed and Glory*, a series examining financial scandals of the past decade. The documentary was replaced by a repeat.

Channel 4, which agreed to pull the programme rather than re-edit it, said it would challenge the move. It will this week apply for the injunction to be lifted, in the hope that it can broadcast the programme next Sunday.

A trade and industry department spokesman said the department had sought the injunction because it was "concerned about any premature disclosure of the unpublished Guinness report". Under the injunction, Channel 4 could not reveal the nature of *Greed and Glory*'s revelations about the government enquiry into the Guinness scandal.

"Obviously it is of some sensitivity to the DTI. We could have cut out the offending four-minute section but as a matter of policy we decided to pull the whole programme and fight it [this week]," the spokesman said.

The Guinness scandal, which involved an illegal share support scheme to help the company in its takeover bid for Distillers, led to the jailing of several senior executives including the company's former chairman and chief executive, Ernest Saunders. *Greed and Glory* is presented by Christopher Hird and produced by Fulcrum Productions, which makes business documentaries for Channel 4 and the BBC.

Other scandals in the series include the Barlow Clowes affair, the collapse of the Bank and Credit and Commerce International, and Robert Maxwell's plundering of his employees' pension funds.

Critics may slow BR sell-off plans

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MacGregor, the transport secretary, is facing growing pressure to postpone the government's rail privatisation plans because of scepticism over the viability of proposals to break up and sell off the national rail network.

The persistence of the recession, combined with the formidable complexity of the privatisation plans, is generating fears that the private sector will cold-shoulder the sale of passenger and freight services, few of which make a profit. In addition, a growing number of transport analysts and Conservative backbenchers have begun to raise the spectre of a botched privatisation programme, which they fear could have potentially disastrous consequences for the health of the economy.

Dismissing speculation that the bill authorising the sale of British Rail is to be delayed, Mr MacGregor said: "We are making good progress on the bill and there is no intention to delay it." Publication was expected "towards the end of November".

Mr MacGregor's statement was greeted with "utter dismay" by Robert Adley, the Conservative chairman of the transport select committee. He called on the government to postpone introduction of the bill until the committee completes its enquiry into the proposed privatisation of the railways in the new year.

Mr Adley, who last year called the rail privatisation plans a "poll tax on wheels", said that there was widespread

scepticism over the practicality of the proposals which ministers were trying to suppress by stifling debate.

The rail privatisation white paper, originally due at the end of 1991, was postponed until after the general election. "It was then published the day before the House rose for the summer recess. That was an attempt to stifle debate," Mr Adley said. The first full debate on rail privatisation is due on Thursday.

Dismissing the transport department's recent consultation document, which outlined how the railways might be broken up into franchises, as an "incoherent piece of civil-service jargon", Mr Adley said: "It is hard to take this document seriously." The whole thing "is based on theory - no one has any practical experience of how it might work," he added. "What happens if it doesn't work?"

"There are 16,000 trains a day run on the BR network in a complex framework which has been built up over generations. You cannot sweep that away without running the risk of a ghastly smash-up."

Concern over the viability of rail privatisation has heightened following the collapse of two recent private sector initiatives: Charterrail, a private sector freight company which is now in receivership, and Stagecoach, which had to abandon its London-Edinburgh-Aberdeen overnight service because of lack of demand.

Comet on collision course

Continued from page 1
estimate a comet or asteroid of just a half to one mile wide could destroy between three quarters and 95 per cent of humanity.

The danger comes not just from the size of the impact but from fires, tidal waves and dust thrown into the atmosphere which, by blocking out the sun could lead to a nuclear-style winter.

Cataclysmic warnings may seem far fetched, but scientists point to the increasingly firm evidence that a roughly six-mile wide asteroid hit the Earth 65 million years ago, causing the extinction of the dinosaurs. More recently they point to an estimated 20 megatonne explosion near the Tunguska river in Siberia in June 1908 caused by a collision with a smaller piece of cometary debris.

Such scientists date mankind's view that Earth is safe from celestial intercessions partly back to relatively low level of collisions over recent centuries and the harmless disintegration of Comet Biela in 1845. This gave the Darwinian theories of evolution the opportunity to take hold.

"The disintegration of Comet Biela into dust made it no longer out of place for biologists and geologists to explain evolution in processes that were non violent and slow acting," says Victor Clube of Oxford university's astrophysics department. But to suggest that the planet is safe is absurd, he says.

Leading article, page 17

Tories give Major Maastricht warning

Continued from page 1
authority, if it got battered about like that, would be seriously weakened."

However, Sir George Gardiner, a member of the Tory backbench 1922 committee, advised Mr Major's aides to soften their line. The prime minister's threat to call a general election if he were defeated over the Maastricht bill was "baseless when the government could win a vote of confidence on all issues except Maastricht the next

day. The prime minister's aides must stop bullying the Tory party with threats of extinction. Our duty is to vote as we see the country's interests," he said.

Winston Churchill, MP for Doynton, said that Mr Major seemed to be "stalking all" on getting Maastricht through Parliament and appeared to be confirming reports that he was ready to ask for a dissolution if thwarted. Mr Churchill, who is pro-European, said: "I think it is

an amazingly risky gamble he is taking. It does almost invite the Labour party to join the Euro-sceptics in the Tory party to defeat the government on this issue."

Leading Conservative rebels showed little sign of regret yesterday. James Cran, MP for Beverley, said he and his colleagues were determined to oppose the bill, whatever ministers said. "It will be trench warfare in the House of Commons if Mr Major introduces this particular bill," he said.

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Yachtsman falls to his death as storms sweep across South

BY LYN JENKINS

A YACHTSMAN died when he was washed overboard in mountainous seas yesterday off the Isle of Wight. Gales swept the South and South West, cutting electricity supplies and leaving sea rescue services severely stretched.

Coastguards who dealt with dozens of emergencies along the South Coast criticised sailors who put out to sea despite gale warnings.

Christopher Darwin, 33, of Yeadon, West Yorkshire, was one of five people on the 45ft *Aeolian* when he was thrown overboard in winds nearing 60mph. The crew failed to reach him and he was pulled unconscious from the water an hour later by the Yarmouth lifeboat near the Needles.

The remaining crew spent a further hour in the heavy seas after the steering broke on the Yarmouth lifeboat. They were rescued by the crew of a lifeboat sent from Swanage, Dorset.

Coastguards criticised the

operators of a sail training ship that put to sea with 17 cadets aboard in spite of warnings of severe weather. The 55ft ketch *Donald Searle*, operated by the Rona Trust, sailed from Southampton but her engine blew up about half a mile east of Chichester Harbour.

A rescue helicopter winched 16 cadets to safety and another was put aboard the Bembridge lifeboat. None of the cadets was injured. The *Donald Searle* later ran aground at West Wittering.

A Royal Navy Sea King rescue helicopter went to the aid of the seven crew of a dangerously listing British-owned coaster 40 miles south of the Isles of Scilly. A mayday from the 1,195-ton coaster reported that her cargo of timber had shifted. The ship was last night limping towards Falmouth.

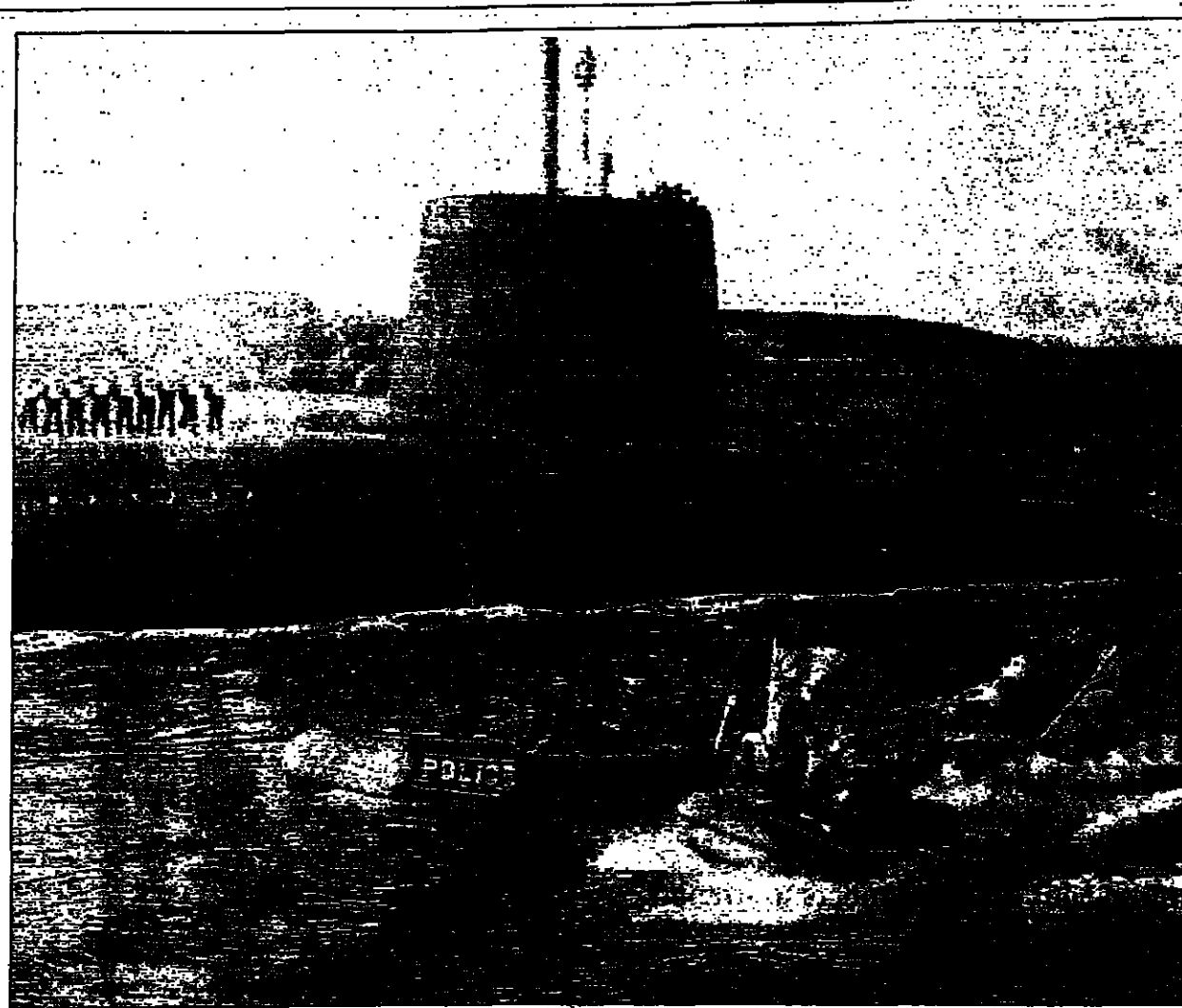
The National Rivers Authority issued flood warnings in the southern coastal coun-

ties yesterday as heavy rain combined with a high tide. Along the Yorkshire coast, 16 fishing vessels had to be escorted back to ports in treacherous conditions by lifeboats from Filey, Bridlington and Flamborough.

At Axminster, Dorset, a swan, blown off course by the gusting wind, crashed through the double-glazed bathroom window of a house and landed in the bath.

Arch Rock at Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight, one of the island's landmarks, has been swept away by the storms. The rock was finally eroded in the night, leaving only its sisters, Stag Rock and Mermaid Rock, standing.

A Norwegian freighter carrying over 2,000 tons of lead concentrates sank off the Dutch town of Egmond aan Zee yesterday, threatening serious local pollution. All six crew members of the *Nordfrakt* were rescued before the ship went down.



Headed off: a CND dinghy being prevented from reaching HMS Vanguard at Faslane base yesterday

Navy repels Trident protesters

BY RAY CLANCY

BRITAIN'S first Trident submarine, HMS Vanguard, was met by a flotilla of boats filled with protesters when it arrived at the Faslane base on the Clyde yesterday for sea trials.

They tried to halt the submarine at the Rhu Spit, the narrowest part of the sea route into Faslane. The 16,000-tonne vessel was protected by her own array of fast inflatable and by tug, police launches and helicopters in a large security operation. One boat of protesters broke through and sailed close to the submarine's hull but was quickly moved on by a Royal Navy protection boat.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said: "The Cold war has ended but we still live in an uncertain and unstable world. Now more than ever it is vital to retain Trident."

Campaigners, many of them from Greenpeace and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, waved posters that described the submarine as a machine of death.

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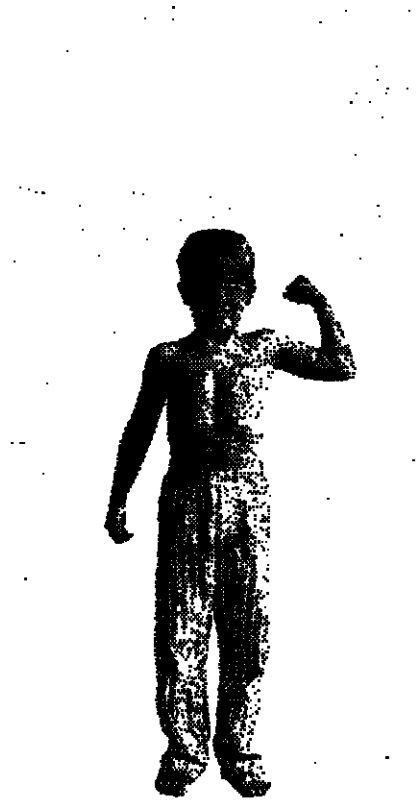
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Kidnapped Briton dies in shootout

A British businessman has been killed in a shootout after being kidnapped by guerrillas in Colombia. Peter Kessler, a project manager for a local banana export firm, was seized on Friday by five members of FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. He left his home in Santa Marta where he has lived for 15 years.

He is believed to have died during skirmishes between the guerrillas and the army in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains. Mr Kessler, 65, who was married to a Colombian and had two children, was killed by a shot to the throat. He worked for Tecnica Baltina, a subsidiary of the American banana company Standard Fruit.

An upsurge in violence by the left-wing guerrilla group has seen 50 people killed in Colombia in the past two weeks. Ransoms paid on kidnappings are a big source of funding for FARC operations.

Women lose in pay

Women may be failing to get the pay rises they deserve because of their bosses' stereotyped attitudes, a report says today. They expect men to be assertive, intelligent and dynamic but demand that women are organised, dependable and honest. The research by the Institute of Manpower Studies shows women are losing out because of performance measures used and the way performance rating is translated into pay. The report, funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission, says schemes introduced by some firms can be unlawful. It was based on research into schemes run by a finance company, local authority, manufacturer and catering organisation.

Poll urges Queen to act

The monarchy can survive only if the Queen gets tough with wayward members of the family, according to a new survey. She is seen as the stabilising force as the House of Windsor struggles through its worst year. A Gallup poll of women readers of *Woman's Own* found that 59 per cent believe the Queen is the only member of the family strong enough to steer them back on course. Only one in five say she should abdicate in favour of the Prince of Wales, but one clear message came through — 98 per cent said the civil list should be stopped, particularly as the country is in recession. Sixty-one per cent said they still had respect for the royal family.

TV's Goldie is dead

Goldie, the dog loved by millions of *Blue Peter* television viewers, has died, the BBC said yesterday. The golden retriever, pictured right, who was 14½, took over from the popular Shep and made more than 650 appearances on the children's magazine programme between 1978 and 1986. After that she retired to the Derbyshire home of the programme's former presenter, Simon Groom.



Editors resist curbs

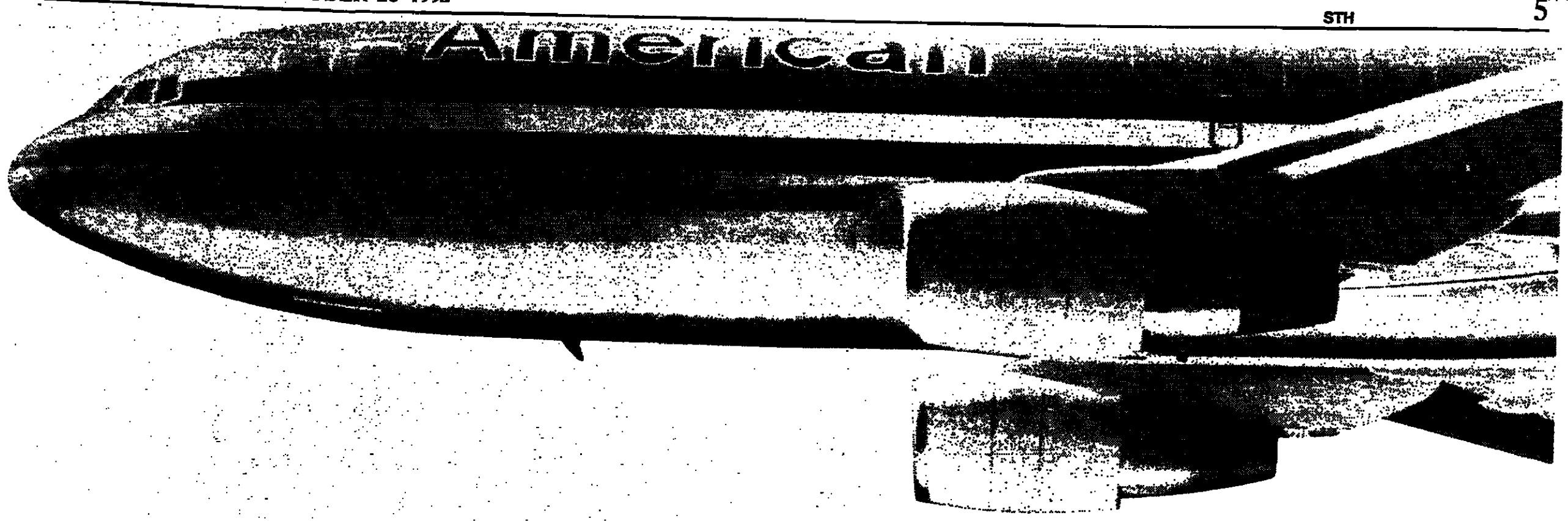
Britain will become a "haven for crooks and scoundrels" if further restrictions on press freedom are imposed by the government, the president of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors said yesterday. David Williams, editor of the *Bury Free Press* in Suffolk, said new laws on privacy would be used by those with something to hide. Newspapers were under attack from all sides, he told the guild's conference in Edinburgh. He urged all sections of the press to resist further curbs.

ChildLine calls for help

The children's charity, ChildLine, gave a warning yesterday that a looming financial crisis means it will have to scale down its operations. As it approaches its sixth birthday on Friday, the charity has enough funds to last only three months. ChildLine will have to take place in the new year unless £500,000 is found by Christmas. The organisation runs a free national 24-hour helpline that has given comfort, advice and protection to more than 250,000 troubled children and young people since it was launched.

Runaway dies in crash

Derek Beavers, of Fleetwood, Lancashire, a 15-year-old absconder from a community home was killed and three others were injured when their car left a motorway and careered down an embankment yesterday on the M6 near Lancaster. Police said he was a passenger in the car, and no other vehicle was involved. Beavers and three other boys — aged 14, 15 and 16 — who were treated for minor injuries, had absconded from the Fyde Farm community home near Blackpool. The car was not listed as stolen.



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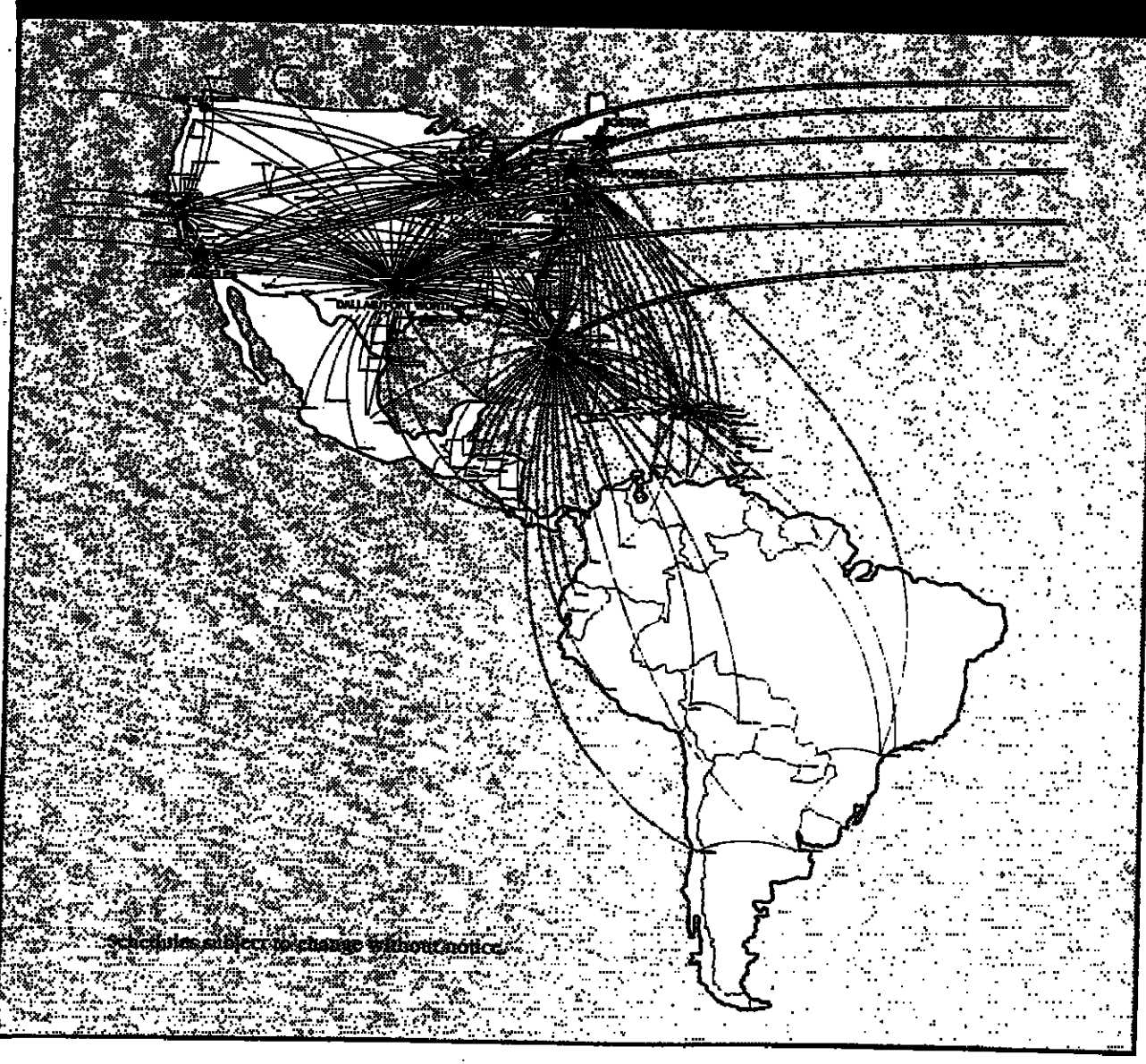
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Safari park receivers ready to give away animals

■ Strict criteria will be used to decide the future of the four-legged inmates of Windsor open-air zoo. With 140 jobs at stake, will staff be so fortunate?

By LOUISE HIDALGO

THE 140 staff of Windsor Safari Park will learn their future today after the park unexpectedly closed its doors to the public yesterday, ten months after going into receivership. There might be job losses.

Visitors were turned away after the official receivers, Cork Gully, suddenly decided to close the park as speculation mounted over its future. The fate of its 600 animals, which include 34 lions, seven elephants and 45 baboons, was far from assured yesterday as the receivers sought how best to dispose of them and where to rehouse them should a buyer not be found.

While most of the animals will remain on the 144-acre site for the time being, the park's eight dolphins are to be found new homes immediately. European Community regulations that will come into effect next year would require the building of a new dolphinarium, which the receivers are not in a position to start.

Chris Barlow, of Cork Gully, said the priority was still to find a buyer prepared to take on the park as a going concern. If that did not prove possible, the animals would be rehoused elsewhere.

He said that a list of criteria had been drawn up, in consultation with animal experts, for new homes. No animals would be placed with circuses, animal dealers would be retained only as brokers, family groupings would not be broken up and any final destination would be vetted. "Our

objective is not to realise cash but to ensure those criteria are met," Mr Barlow said. If they were met, the receivers might consider giving away the animals. "They are not in any sense a commodity with a defined price."

The decision to close the safari park, due to shut next weekend for the winter season, was taken "in the interests of the safety of staff, the general public and the animals", Mr Barlow said. The receivers were not prepared to take any risk "for the sake of speculating on a week's extra income". Some sources suggested that the early closure had been prompted by fears that animal activists might try to release some of the animals into the wild.

Windsor Safari Park was operating profitably and trading normally when the receivers were summoned in January. In the seventies it attracted 20,000 visitors a day and even in recent years received a million visitors a year.

Its difficulties were caused primarily by its parent company, Themes International. The group, which took over the park four years ago, had expanded by acquisition and by the end of 1991 was no longer able to service its debts of more than £40 million.

Chris Barlow of Cork Gully assumed responsibility both for the safari park and for all the company's assets, which include ten nightclubs, a paddle steamer in Amsterdam and an aquapark in Torremolinos.



Present laughter: Peter Gott, aged six, who has an unusually high IQ, will have to leave his private school unless a replacement can be found for the firm that has been paying the bulk of his fees (John O'Leary writes).

Peter's parents wrote to 200 companies appealing for sponsorship because they believed his state primary school could not provide the individual attention he needed. Only one firm would help to pay the

£3,300 fees at Bury Lawn School, in Milton Keynes. Berkertex, the fashion company specialising in bridal wear, was paying two-thirds of the fees until the receivers were called in last month. Bury Lawn has provided a bursary to see out the school year, but Peter will have to move if no new sponsor comes forward.

Peter's father Stuart said: "I work nights packing supermarket shelves, and my wife works in a card shop to

find our share of the fees, but we could never afford the full amount. We have advertised in the local papers for financial help, but this time there have been no replies." Support under the Assisted Places Scheme, is not available for those under 11.

Mr Gott said: "It does not seem to bother Peter. But if we do not find funds for him by next September, we will be in a hell if a mess. The local

primary school wants to put him in a class of 13-year-olds, which we do not think would be good for him at all." Peter, who was reading before he was three, has had his IQ assessed at 175. The county denies that it would place him in a class of 13-year-olds.

□ The National Association of Head Teachers today appeals to John Major in a letter not to suspend the teachers' pay review body as part of moves to restrict public sector pay.

Rix relaunches Mencap to conquer prejudices

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT



The despised old logo ...

SOCIETY is still ill-informed in its perception of the needs of mentally handicapped people and their families, according to Lord Rix of Whitehall, chairman of Mencap.

Lord Rix, writing in *Mencap news*, published today, says that in nearly 50 years Mencap has notched up some remarkable achievements, but recent research by the charity shows society has remained prejudiced. He predicts an "uphill battle" to bring the

rights of people with learning disabilities to the forefront.

Mencap — the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults — is today relaunching itself in an attempt to regain its campaigning image and improve the status of mentally handicapped people in society. Mencap is concerned that while attitudes to women, race and minority groups have changed, the public still holds fast to old prejudices about

people with learning difficulties. The charity is consigning its former logo of "little Stephen", to history.

The weepy-looking little boy is universally despised by people with learning difficulties and has perpetuated the sad, pathetic "begging bowl" image to the detriment of the charity, according to *Mencap news*. The new logos have photographs of mentally handicapped people looking positive.



... and the positive new

Molyneux rules out return to talks

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Ulster Unionist Party gave notice this weekend that it will not return to the negotiating table after the Anglo-Irish conference next month.

In a typically cryptic speech to the party's annual conference in Belfast on Saturday Jim Molyneux, UUP leader, also appeared to signal that he now expects the government to come forward with its own proposals for modest devolution in Belfast along the lines agreed by the two unionist parties and the Alliance.

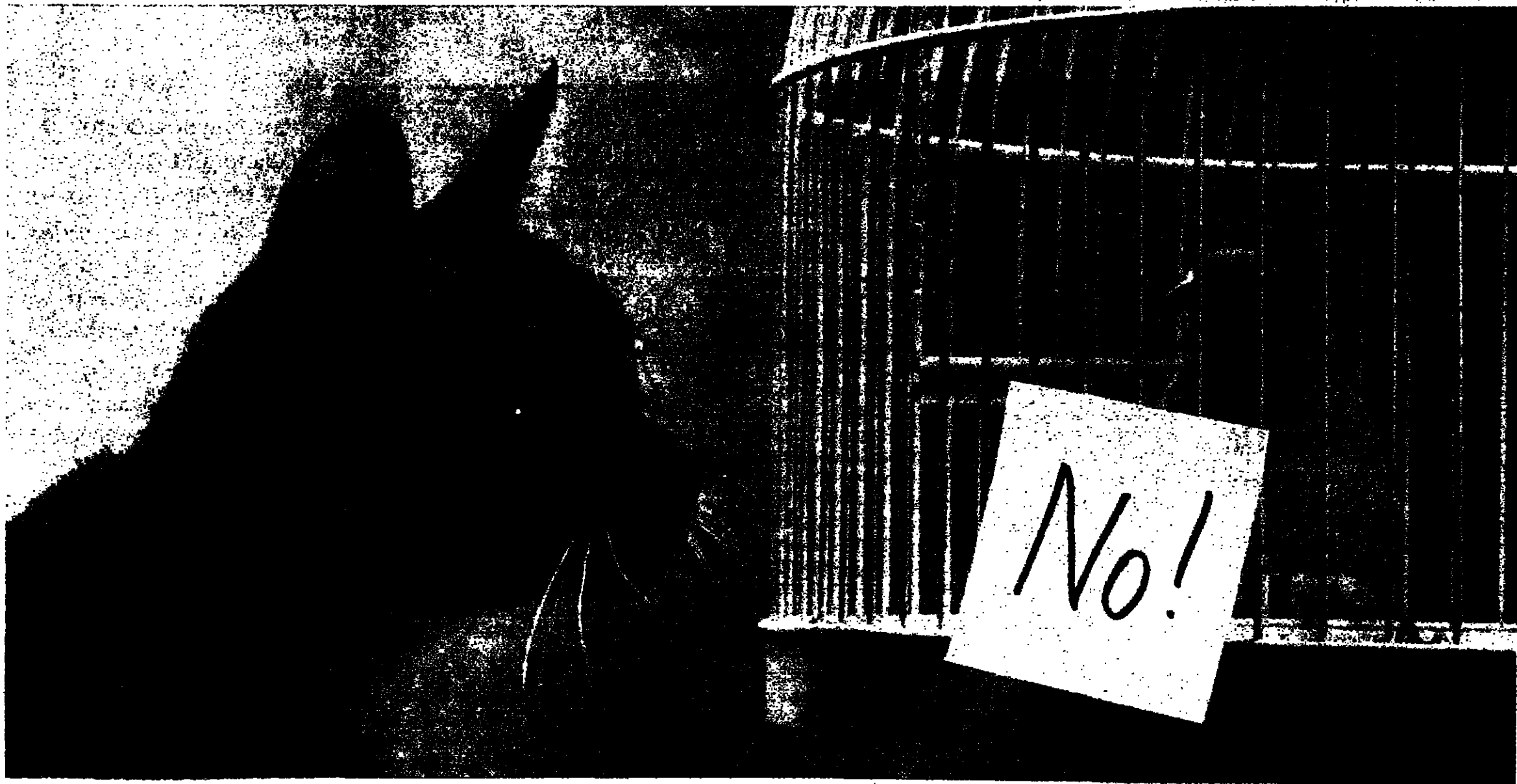
Mr Molyneux made clear that the two governments alone must take the blame for the fact that the inter-party talks will end permanently once preparations begin for the Anglo-Irish conference on November 16.

"As far back as three years ago, both governments agreed to suspend the Anglo-Irish conference and Secretariat for the duration of the talks," Mr Molyneux told delegates. "It was clearly accepted that if and when the two governments terminate the suspension, they thereby terminate the talks."

Mr Molyneux has thus now publicly aligned himself with Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who will also end his party's involvement in the process once preparations for the conference begin.

Mr Molyneux did, however, talk with some optimism about the prospects for a new devolution arrangement in Belfast along the lines he has always envisaged. He said he did not want the process to simply slide back to square one if it was deprived of total success. "This time we shall not falter just because another initiative has been only partially successful."

Sources within the UUP said yesterday that Mr Molyneux was calling for the government to now bring forward proposals based on the limited agreement between the two unionist parties and the Alliance.



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Stevens to announce English Heritage sites fit for disposal

By JOHN YOUNG AND NORMAN HAMMOND

DRASTIC changes in the organisation and financing of English Heritage, the quasi-independent watchdog for historic buildings and ancient monuments, are expected to be announced by its chairman, Jocelyn Stevens, today.

The proposals are contained in a report, *Managing England's Heritage: Setting our Priorities for the 1990s*. Besides calling for severe cuts in staffing, it is likely to advocate "privatisation", or the handing over to local authorities of many buildings and sites in care, and concentration on those that are considered of the highest importance to national heritage.

The report is likely to reflect the hard-line, cost-effective management views of Mr Stevens, who succeeded Lord Montagu of Beaulieu as chairman earlier this year. But it may also be seen as an expression of discontent at the low level of funding, which

An English Heritage report reveals a "hit-list" of properties considered suitable to hand over to the care of local authorities or private owners

has prevented it from fulfilling its commitments.

The most controversial aspect of the report is expected to be a "hit list" of properties considered suitable for handing over to private owners or local authorities. Among those sites are the prehistoric megalithic avenues and enclosures at Avebury, Wiltshire, listed by Unesco as a World Heritage Site.

The proposals are said to divide sites into three classes of "highest quality", of national and of regional importance. They are also classified as having "potential for development" by English Heritage, attractive but with limited development potential, and suitable for other management.

Most concern is likely to be felt about the "highest quality" sites that could be managed independently. Apart from Avebury, they include the Roman town of Silchester, Hampshire, and Vindolanda and Birdoswald forts on Hadrian's Wall.

Sites of national importance to be handed over to local care are likely to include the Uffington White Horse in Berkshire and the medieval tithe barn at Bradford-on-Avon. Sites mentioned in the regional category include Winchester Palace, Hampshire, and Lanercost Priory, Cumbria.

Local authorities are aghast at the prospect of further demands on their stretched resources.



Kobal's world of glamour up for auction

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

AN OUTSTANDING array of film and entertainment material will be dispersed at Christie's in London on December 17, following the death of John Kobal, the collector of Hollywood memorabilia. The media, which had come to depend on Kobal, will be bereft of a valuable source of images.

Up for sale are the exotic sequin-encrusted costume Yul Brynner wore in the 1956 film *The King and I*, and a ginger chiffon evening dress, left, worn by the *Jennie Jangle* Rita Hayworth in *Pul Joey* (both estimated at £800 to £1,000). Kobal was renowned for his love of glamour and kitsch. Items include garish posters for *Fantasia* and *Gone with the Wind*, each expected to fetch £3,000. There will be publicity photographs of stars such as Dietrich and Olivier, sketches from MGM studios, and publicity posters that were originally propped up beside box offices. One, from *Niagara*, shows Monroe lying on the falls as though on a sofa, the rushing waters doubling as a drape.

Born in Linz in 1940, John Kobal started his career as a small-time actor in Britain. In the 1960s, he became a film correspondent in America for BBC radio. Many Hollywood studios were closing down, and Kobal took every opportunity to acquire discarded publicity material. He wrote more than 30 books.

DNA tests to show truth of fishy story

By RAY CLANCY

WHEN Ronnie Lindsay landed a 46lb salmon on the river Nith in Dumfries he thought he was set to enter the record books. A few days later the monster fish was seized by police amid rumours that it had been clandestinely poached from another river.

The results of special DNA tests on the 4ft salmon by scientists at a fisheries laboratory in Cumbria are expected soon. Mr Lindsay believes his name will be cleared and detectives will be glad to bring to an end a fishy story that has had the locals gossiping for three weeks.

Mr Lindsay says he caught the fish after an hour-long struggle on September 30. He hoped that it was a new angling record for a salmon caught by rod and line in southwest Scotland. News of the catch spread fast in the pubs of the small town. Rumours abounded, the strongest of which was that the fish had been poached from the river Tweed and the record claim was false.

Detectives seized the evidence — one frozen salmon — and sent it for forensic tests. Inspector Alan Carruthers of Dumfries and Galloway police said the DNA tests will determine which river the fish was born in. Salmon always return to the waters of their birth.

Mr Lindsay said: "It is a tremendous fish and one I have always dreamt of catching. I know they are saying that it did not come from the Nith but that is not true. It did come from the Nith and I landed it fair and square."

Empty vessel makes big noise in Wales

By TIM JONES

IF BEAUTY is in the eye of the beholder, then Number 111 gasometer is either a celebration of Florentine art or a rusting eyesore that should be condemned to the rubbish tip.

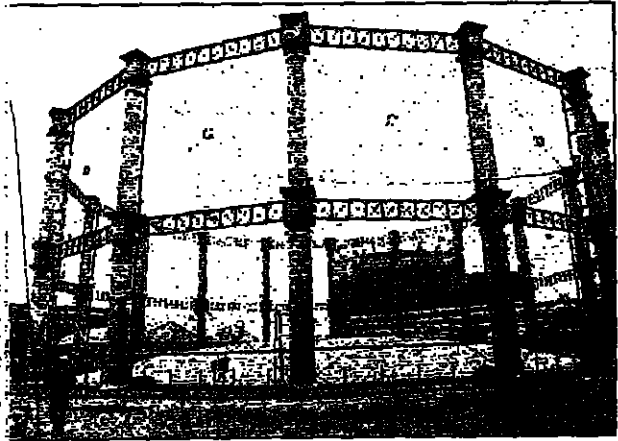
Cadw, the Welsh Office ancient monuments agency, believes the 110-year-old holder in Cardiff is evocative of the work of Brunelleschi, the Renaissance architect and engineer whose work included the dome of Florence cathedral. Experts from Cadw, who have decided to preserve the holder for the nation by making it a grade II listed building, were particularly taken by its fine Doric columns that support the panelling blocks. A spokesman said: "The metal frame work which forms around the holder line a crown is particularly interesting. Who ever designed it had a knowledge of classical architecture."

Residents of the Grange-on area are not impressed

and rather wish the holder had not been repaired after being damaged by war-time bombing. Huw Parry said: "It is incredibly ugly. Anyone living in Florence would have a heart attack if this thing was on the doorstep."

British Gas, which said it would cost £400,000 to put Number 111 back in working order, also expressed surprise over the decision. A spokesman said: "Usually we are urged by local people and councillors to take the holders down once they are no longer in use."

Peter Perkins, chairman of South Glamorgan County Council, said: "It is absolute nonsense. No doubt this has been decided by someone living miles away without any thought for people in the area. The decision could stifle development in this part of Cardiff Bay because it will put people off living near it."



Art or folly: the gas-holder evoking Brunelleschi

Britain tops EC for over-65s

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE United Kingdom has a higher proportion of people aged over 65 than any other European Community country, though its birth rate, at 3.8 per thousand population, is second only to Ireland's. Britons are now living almost three decades longer than at the turn of the century. Average life expectancy for males, which was 45.5 years in 1900, is expected to reach 45 years by the end of the century. Average life expectancy for females, 49 at the start of the century, is expected to reach 79.9 by its end.

The figures come from the central Statistical Office's latest publication, *Key Data*, which reports that Britons are the second highest divorce rate in the EC (12.6 per thousand existing marriages compared with 13.6 in Denmark) and the second highest marriage rate (6.8 per thousand of the eligible population, compared with 7.1 in Portugal).

The figures also show that they have become much better over the past two decades. Total household disposable income increased tenfold from 6.4 billion in 1971 to 72.6 billion in 1990. Over the same period, the purchasing power of the pound fell to just one sixth of its 1971 value, but that still meant that real incomes increased by about three quarters.

Key Data 1992-3 (Stationery Office: £4.95)

Drugs fail to stifle malaria

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

HEALTH ministers from 95 countries meet today in Amsterdam to plan a new strategy against malaria, a disease that is making a devastating comeback despite the best efforts of modern science.

"Globally, the malaria situation is serious and getting worse," says Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the World Health Organisation, which has organised today's meeting. He will be recommending a strategy of controlling the disease rather than trying to eliminate the mosquitoes that carry it.

Malaria kills between one and two million people a year, nearly all of them in Africa. Deaths in Britain are low, no more than 20 a year, but travellers to countries such as Kenya and Thailand face a growing threat from drug-resistant varieties. Earlier this year, Richard Hughes, the brother of Simon Hughes MP, died of malaria despite having taking anti-malarian pills. He caught the disease in Kenya, as did Dorothy Wheeler, a beauty therapist from Birmingham, who died three weeks later.

The WHO wants to concentrate on earlier diagnosis, treatment, and identification of the outbreak of epidemics. Attempts to eliminate the mosquito by the use of insecticides, draining swamps where it breeds, and introducing predators, have failed.

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Oil explorers to start drilling in sight of nature reserves

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DRILLING for oil and gas begins next month a few miles from one of the country's most beautiful and heavily protected coastlines, against the advice of government wildlife and countryside experts.

Hamilton Oil is to sink an offshore exploration well within sight of the Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd, and the island of Bardsey at its tip, a coastline considered the most outstanding in North Wales, both for wildlife and landscape, with its windswept cliffs home to thousands of seabirds such as Manx shearwaters, razorbills

and guillemots, and its crystal-clear waters sheltering a breeding colony of grey seals.

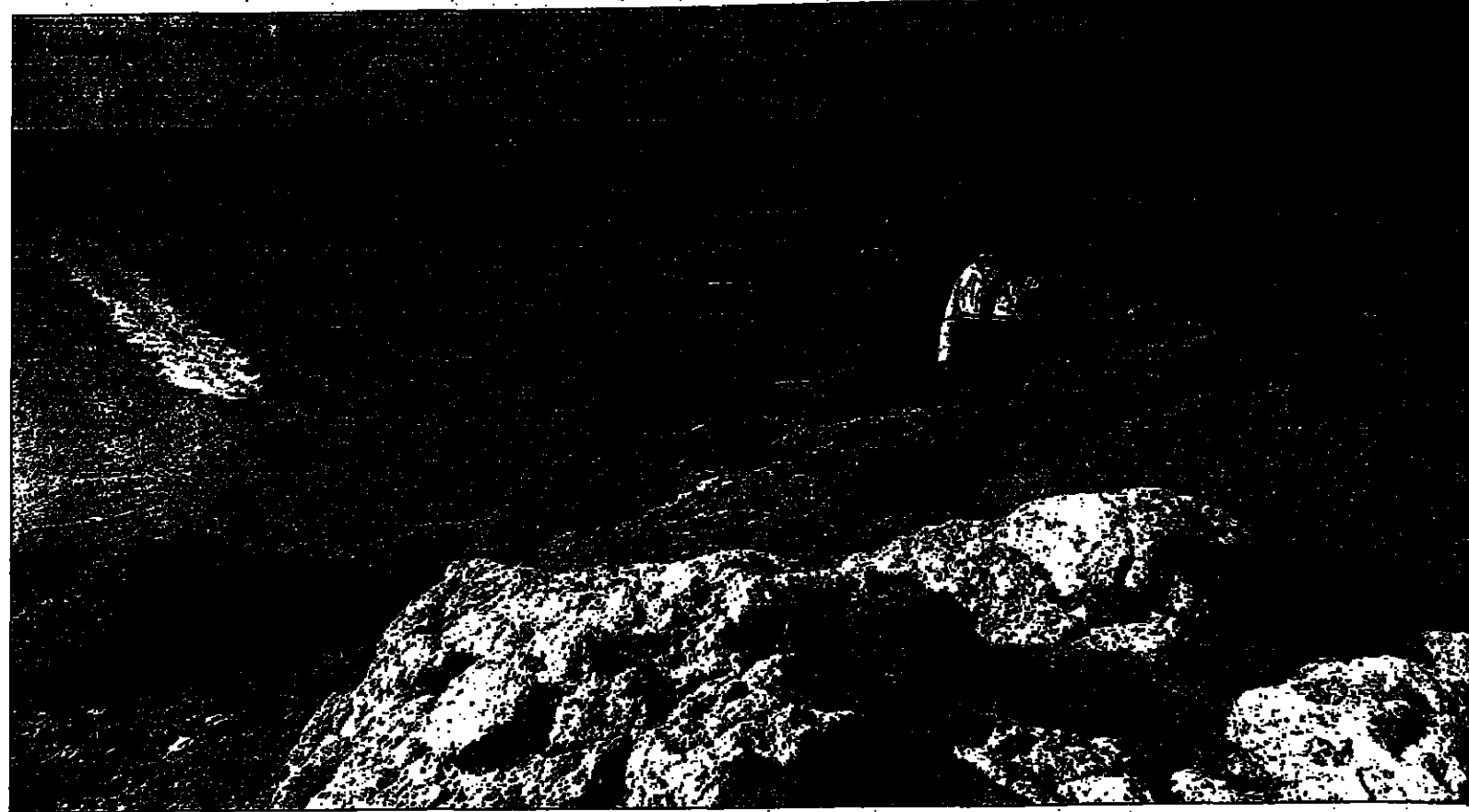
Hamilton brought ashore the first oil from a North Sea well in 1975, from the Argyll field, which ceased production last week. As the North Sea fields decline and Britain moves away from coal as an energy source, the company is now leading the way in Irish Sea prospecting, and has recently made substantial finds of both oil and gas further north in Liverpool Bay. It hopes to make a similar strike with the well it is drilling off Bardsey, on which it is spending an initial £5 million.

But while the company's Argyll well was 180 miles from shore, the new well will be sunk only ten miles from Bardsey and eight miles from the Llyn coast. Conservationists fear that an oil or gas find and the development of a petrochemical industry would mean a considerable pollution risk and threat to wildlife in

one of the most unspoiled corners of Britain. The company declines to speculate on where any find might be brought ashore, but there are fears it could be in Llyn.

The drilling was licensed by the now-defunct Department of Energy in 1990 amid opposition from the Nature Conservancy Council, which has since been split into wildlife and countryside agencies for England, Wales and Scotland. The NCC objected to the risk to seabird breeding colonies but was overruled by Peter Morrison, who was then the energy minister.

Bardsey and the southern tip of Llyn are covered by a plethora of protection designations: area of outstanding natural beauty, heritage coast, national nature reserve, site of special scientific interest, special protection area under the EC birds directive, and proposed marine nature reserve. Mike Gash, coastal policy officer for the Countryside



The Llyn peninsula: "The peace, the serenity and quiet will be put at hazard by the drilling rig plunked down there," Mike Gash says

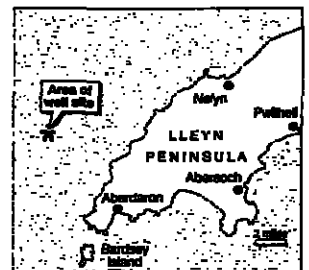
Council for Wales, the NCC's successor in the principality, said on Bardsey last week: "Surely these designations have to mean something. Or are they simply going to be done away with for the sake of short-term expediency?"

Bardsey is in legend the burial place of 20,000 saints, and was a place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. "Everything the pilgrims sought — the peace, the serenity and quiet, the remoteness — will be put at hazard by

having the drilling rig plunked down there," Mr Gash said. "To have an oil industry within sight of a place like this would be sacrilegious."

Hamilton Oil says it is consulting widely with local interests, and complying with strict conditions imposed by the drilling licence, which include a seven-kilometre exclusion zone around Bardsey itself, and an abstinence from drilling during the seabird breeding season in spring and

summer. Charles Howson, the company's spokesman, said that a special anti-pollution vessel would also be on stand-by throughout the drilling operations. "We are fully aware of the sensitivity of the area," he said.



Lawyers fear loss of legal aid firms

■ Solicitors and thousands of their clients are likely to pay dearly if the Lord Chancellor's proposals to overhaul the legal aid system are enacted

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of small legal aid firms could be forced to close or drop legal aid work under plans for the most fundamental shake-up of the service in its history.

The proposals were announced at the weekend by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, at the Law Society conference in Birmingham. Instead of the present network of about 10,000 solicitors' offices offering legal aid, the work is expected to be concentrated among bigger firms who would win contracts and block-funding to process legal aid work in volume, subject to strict quality controls.

Up to two-thirds of the 10,000 outlets may have to

give up legal aid work, as they would be unlikely to be successful in tendering competitively for the work with the larger firms. Legal aid would be far harder to obtain than now, with possibly hundreds of people made ineligible and those who qualify paying far more towards their own costs in civil and criminal cases.

In civil cases, means-testing, which was generous, should be brought into line with that for other benefits, Lord Mackay said. He made clear that he wants to see a big cut in legal aid for divorce.

Couples would be encouraged to use mediation, possibly with incentives to reach agreement. Those could take the form of bonus payments to solicitors who succeed in keeping a divorce out of court.

Solicitors are still assessing the far-reaching impact of what is being seen as a watershed speech by Lord Mackay, in which he spelt out the government's vision for the future shape of the legal aid scheme in the next century. The background to the proposals is the cost of legal aid, which Lord Mackay said would exceed £1 billion this year, more than twice the level of four years ago. On present trends, the cost would near £2 billion by the mid-nineties.

That rate of growth "cannot be allowed to continue", he said. Solicitors said the proposals meant a massive reduction in the eligibility of people for legal aid, because of the likely reduction in legal aid offices and the Lord Chancellor's plans to make people pay more of the cost.

Charles Elly, a Law Society council member, said the proposals would hit the poorest sectors of the public by reducing the numbers of offices and increasing the sums people had to pay towards the costs of their case.

Law report, page 34

The way it isn't

ANITA RODDICK



Roger Scruton Always has a suit on Unless he's approached unawares Wearing flares

John Birt Is a little too pert I would have preferred a grandee In the role of D.G.

P.J. O'Rourke Sure can talk "I'm a hell of a guy" Is his usual cry

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EC watchdog catalogues year of fraud and waste

Tales are emerging of stolen food aid and public money squandered on anything from disappearing furniture to advertising campaigns for table olives

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

AS BRITAIN dithers over the Maastricht treaty and European leaders prepare to do battle over the next Brussels budget, the Community's own financial watchdog is preparing to issue one of the most trenchant criticisms ever directed at fraud and waste in EC finances.

A draft of the next annual report of the EC's Court of Auditors reveals slack financial monitoring, theft of food aid to eastern Europe and public money wasted on anything from disappearing furniture in the European Parliament to advertising campaigns for table olives. The report, written by a committee of 12 financial experts representing all EC states based in Luxembourg, records that governments declared £47 million of EC-related fraud between mid-1990 and mid-1991. But those figures are widely reckoned to be misleading: the Irish government declared no fraud cases for that period and Greece only three. Estimates of the total amount lost each year run to ten times the official figures.

The 735-page text of the report is circulating just as governments reach the critical stage of the autumn's battle over the EC's next five-year budget. Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president, has asked governments to raise the Community's annual £44 billion spending by 30 per cent. Britain and Germany, the two heaviest contributors to the EC budget, have attacked the Delors figures as over-ambitious and unnecessary. The Court of Auditors report provides ammunition both for Eurosceptics opposed to the Maastricht treaty and its expansion of EC powers, and for government ministers trying to cut down M. Delors' plans.

The report's sharpest criticisms are aimed at spending

'The sheep were redistributed among shepherds, increasing the size of their flocks a hundred times'

in the common agricultural policy, which accounts for just over half the EC's budget. Making spot checks on payments to sheep farmers, auditors discovered flocks of British sheep being merged to qualify for special payments. Six shepherds with flocks of less than eight sheep, who did not qualify for the payment, clubbed together with a large firm to apply for premiums on 6,040 sheep. The first official count agreed to pay out grants for 1,000 sheep but was overruled by a more generous supervisor. The sheep were redistributed among the shepherds, increasing the size of their flocks a hundred times. With this creative accounting, all 6,000 sheep qualified for the premium payment.

The auditors acknowledge that the European Commission's shipments of emergency food aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States, Romania and Bulgaria last year travelled east under difficult conditions. But they paint a picture of chaos in the EC bureaucracy, long delays, waste and theft.

The Community gave Bulgaria 7,500 tons of milk powder to avert famine in the poorest areas. Unknown to the Brussels Commission, one packet in every ten was sold by the Bulgarian authorities to Egypt, by way of Greek middlemen, to earn hard currency for the government in Sofia. The Bulgarians did not even bother to change the powder's packaging.

Last February, 12 months after the EC had promised \$80,000 tons of food to Russia, only just over half had left the Community's borders. The EC pays for the storage of the food waiting to move and the auditors report that storage alone will have cost the EC £1.6 million by this year. In a cryptic reference to Commission officials misunderstanding the sugar market, the report says that £5.6 million was lost in sending sugar to Romania.

The report contains frequent scathing references to the lack of control over how EC money is spent in Greece. "No assurance could be

taken from the work done" by the Greek Court of Auditors, the EC watchdogs say. Subsidies paid to Greece's numerous cotton and olive oil producers have not been properly inspected since 1987 and control systems are ineffectual. Work on an olive oil register is "bogged down". The "fundamental weakness" shown by the authorities is their "complete failure" to punish olive oil producers who break the rules.

With weary persistence, the auditors point out again that the EC's Third World aid is not always spent as intended. A project to help the farming of "basic foodgrains" in Nicaragua was altered by the Nicaraguans into a Community-funded scheme to manufacture farm implements drawn by animals, without anyone in Brussels knowing.

The report contains a severe postscript rapping the knuckles of the European parliament for failing to keep track of its belongings. By this time last year, £4 million of computers, stationery and furniture — almost 9,000 items in all — were unaccounted for. The accounts of the parliament's own supermarket in Luxembourg are, in the auditors' typically understated words, in an "irregular situation".

Leading article, page 17

A tale of two peas — or easy pickings thanks to Brussels

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS in Britain and the rest of Europe are being pressed by Brussels to accept £30 million a year in subsidies most of them do not want, because satellite photography cannot distinguish one kind of pea from another.

That is one bizarre consequence of the reforms of the European Community's common agricultural policy (CAP), agreed last May, that were meant to reduce the huge sums of taxpayers' money being spent on supporting production of food nobody wants. Growers of vining peas, the kind destined for human consumption, are being told they must accept a payment of £127 an acre. That is supposed to compensate them for cuts in guaranteed prices that arable farmers will have to accept over the next three years.

Substituting one kind of subsidy for another would be no more than routine lunacy by EC standards. In this case, however, a subsidy is being created where none existed, since vining peas are among the few agricultural products that have never been subsidised by a guaranteed price or

any other means. Even the National Farmers' Union thinks this is overdoing things a bit. David Naish, its president, has written to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and Brussels calling the subsidy "unnecessary and unjustified" and urging that it be rescinded.

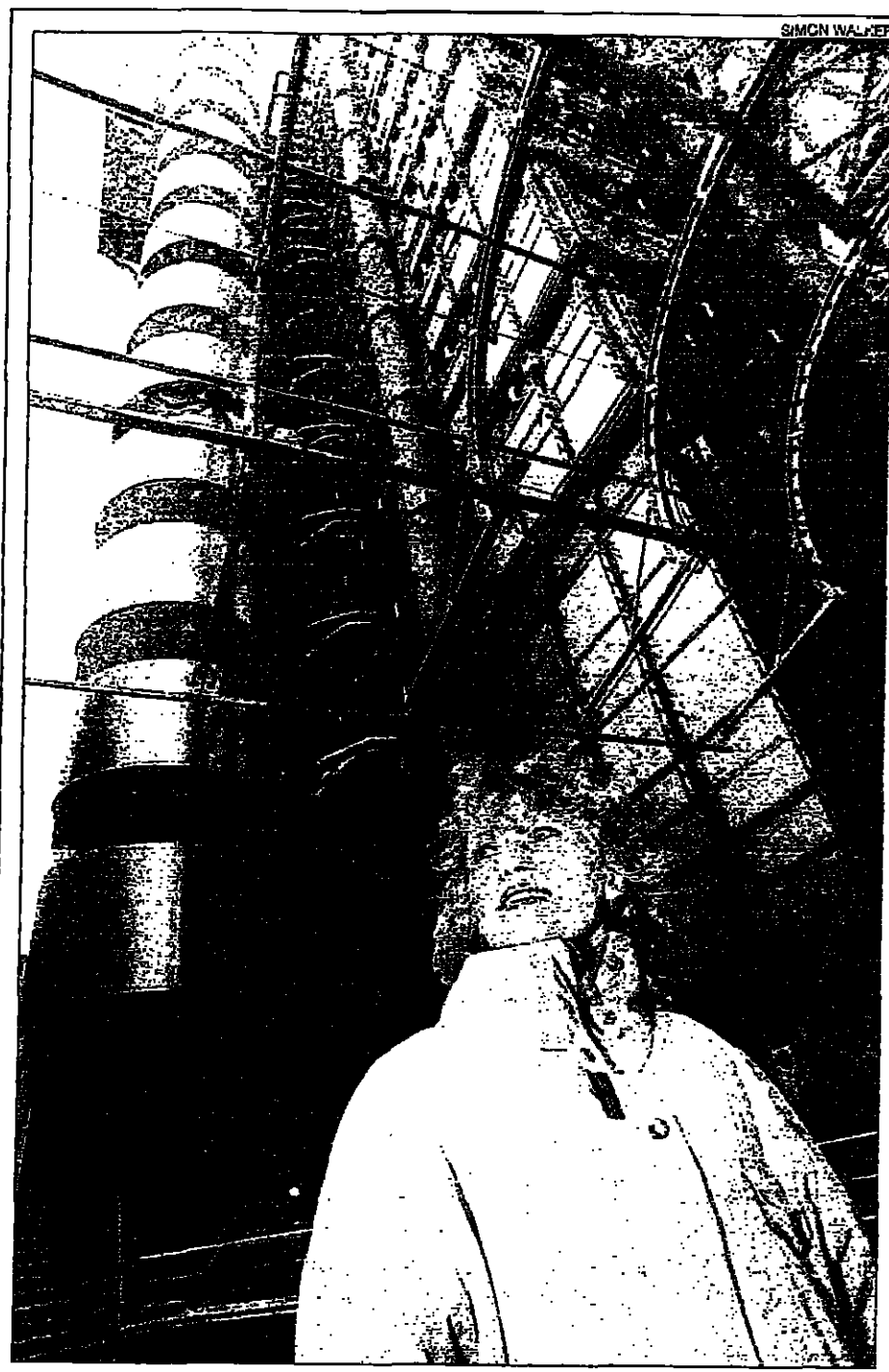
Brian Scott, chief executive of the Processed Vegetable Growers' Association, said: "It is crazy. Vining pea growers have managed to survive through thick and thin without subsidy. We already have excess production of about 20,000 tonnes and now growers of other crops will be tempted to switch to peas to get this payment. The market will be glutted, forcing down prices."

About 120,000 acres of vining peas are grown by nearly 1,000 farmers in Britain. They are virtually unanimous in not wanting the subsidy, Mr Scott says, and are supported by their counterparts in France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Holland. At one stage, he claims, only Greece was clearly in favour of the subsidy.

Under the old regime, growers of so-called "protein" peas, which are dried for use in animal feed, were guaranteed a minimum price. In the reformed CAP, that has been scrapped and replaced with the acreage payment. Satellite surveillance will be used to check the size of crop areas. The snag is that satellite photography cannot easily tell vining peas from protein ones.

The mandarins in Brussels feared they would be unable to prevent fraudulent claims by unscrupulous vining pea farmers if the acreage grants were limited to protein peas. So they decided to make the payments available to all, thus saving any from having to go to the effort of cheating.

Agriculture ministry officials say the decision to include vining pea growers in the subsidy scheme was "slipped into the reform package at the last moment" and Britain was unable to prevent it. Mr Gummer, currently president of the EC's council of farm ministers, is said to feel that the decision should be reversed, but he is unlikely to press too hard lest the rest of the farm reforms start to unravel.



Western delights: Katya Likhodei, a mother of three from the industrial town of Nizhny Tagil in the Urals, posing before one of the City's capitalist palaces, the Lloyd's building, after arriving in London at the weekend on her first journey outside Russia. Her two-week visit is organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants to show her how to set up and run a successful

small business. The institute's invitation came in the wake of a letter Mrs Likhodei wrote to *The Times* in March asking for advice on opening a private shop for consumer goods. She received letters and advice from all over Britain. Her tour of the country will take her to shops and small businesses in Cardiff, Cambridge, Leamington Spa, Wakefield, York and Brighton.

NEWS IN BRIEF

London top of list for high fares

London remains the most expensive city in the EC for commuters, a survey by the Association of London Authorities reports today. Fare increases beginning in January will take the cost of a week's commuting in London, based on a six-mile journey, to £16 — well ahead of the second most expensive city Dublin, at £11.77.

The cost is based on ten journeys for commuters each week. In a list of single fare prices in EC cities only Copenhagen (£1.89) was more expensive than London (£1.60), though discounts for Copenhagen commuters cut weekly costs below those in London.

The average for a week's commuting in the cities was £6.99, and the single fare average 93p. The survey was conducted on October 21 and fare conversions into pounds were made on closing exchange rates on October 20.

Health comes before riches

Being rich is not a top priority for British men, a Gallup survey for next month's *Esquire* magazine has found. They would rather have their health, someone to love and good friends.

Londoners are the exception. They want the good life and do not care much about health. Gallup surveyed 1,019 men aged between 20 and 44.

Beckett novel

A previously unpublished Samuel Beckett novel will be launched in Dublin on Wednesday. He wrote *Dream of Fair to Middling Women* 60 years ago and entrusted the manuscript to a friend.

Plea for murals

A wall art conservation society has launched an appeal to save wartime murals painted by American servicemen in billets and messes of their British bases.

Negus auction

Antiques belonging to the late Arthur Negus, presenter of the television programme, *The Antiques Road Show*, will be auctioned in Cheltenham on Wednesday.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings premium bonds weekly prize draw: £100,000, bond number 16YN Q22598, winner lives in the London borough of Lewisham; £50,000, (23TL 578845), winner lives in Buckinghamshire; £25,000 (25WB 382476) winner lives in King's Lynn.

Spassky holds off an aggressive Fischer

BY RAYMOND KRENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Fischer is no further forward in his attempt to seize the world record \$3.35 million (£2.1 million) prize in his match against Boris Spassky in Belgrade.

Fischer's efforts to complicate the 24th game on Saturday came to naught against a Spassky who seemed determined to exchange as many pieces as possible and eliminate all the tension in the position. There is speculation among grandmasters that Spassky's tactics are to stone-wall and delay Fischer's ability to score the last two wins he needs to capture the jackpot, causing a frustrated Fischer to over-extend and perhaps suffer defeat.

Game 25, due to be played last night, was postponed at Spassky's request. This is the last time-out he is permitted. Fischer now has eight wins to Spassky's four, with 12 games drawn.

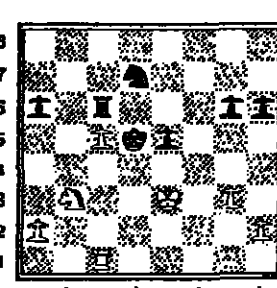
At the international chess tournament in Tilburg, Holland, the 20-year-old British grandmaster Michael Adams is heading for one of his greatest tournament triumphs. He has sailed easily to the final of a knockout tournament where the ultimate jackpot is a £35,000 prize.

Nigel Short, Anatoly Karpov and Vasily Ivanchuk

have already been eliminated. In the semi-final on Saturday, Adams defeated the Israeli grandmaster Ilya Smirin.

In the other semi-final the American grandmaster Gata Kamsky and grandmaster Boris Gelfand (Belarusian) are still deadlocked and fighting for the right to challenge Adams in the final.

Game 24		Black	
1	White	21	Black
2	White	22	Black
3	White	23	Black
4	White	24	Black
5	White	25	Black
6	White	26	Black
7	White	27	Black
8	White	28	Black
9	White	29	Black
10	White	30	Black
11	White	31	Black
12	White	32	Black
13	White	33	Black
14	White	34	Black
15	White	35	Black
16	White	36	Black
17	White	37	Black
18	White	38	Black
19	White	39	Black
20	White	40	Black



The final position

Diet pills 'available on demand'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

PRIVATE clinics are giving strong "diet" drugs to slimmers despite official advice that the risks posed to users outweigh any benefits, according to a *World in Action* programme to be broadcast on ITV tonight.

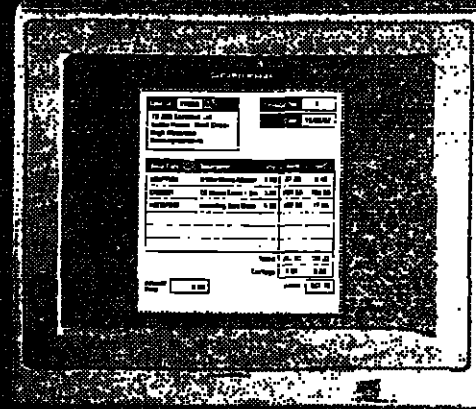
Researchers for the programme went undercover to 50 private British clinics, and found that potentially addictive amphetamine-based drugs, which work by suppressing the user's appetite, were available "almost on demand" from 45 of them.

Five clinics gave an underweight woman the diet pills and two gave them to a 15-year-old girl, despite evidence suggesting that they interfere with growth in young people. One did not have a doctor on the premises, even though the pills are prescription-only.

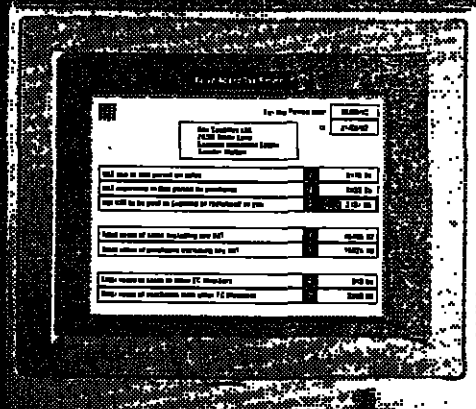
Dr Natalie-Jane Macdonald, of the British Medical Association, told *World in Action*: "These clinics should not be able to prescribe centrally-acting appetite suppressants to patients who come off the streets." Dr Nick Finer, head of the obesity clinic at Guy's hospital in London, said: "It is not acceptable for this standard of medicine to persist in this country."

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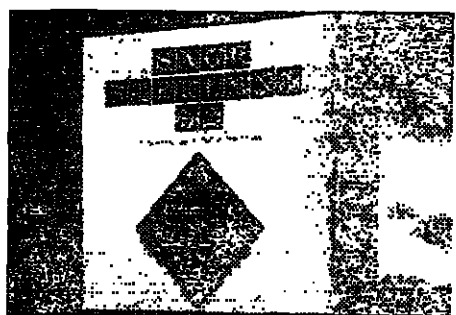
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Patten under pressure to reveal 'China deal' on democracy curbs

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, is facing his first big political storm as angry legislators demand to see letters between Britain and China, written two or three years ago, alleged to agree secret restrictions on the development of democracy here.

The controversy has been seized on by conservative leaders previously too embarrassed to criticise the hugely popular governor for fear of appearing too pro-Peking. However, it has also angered pro-democracy liberals who have long been suspicious of Britain's motives in pushing political reform so late in the day.

Members of the Legislative Council said that they would withhold support for the controversial blueprint for democratic reform that Mr Patten

presented this month until the correspondence is made public and the accusations are laid to rest. Martin Lee, the chairman of the Liberal United Democrats of Hong Kong, said: "We can never be satisfied until they are released."

The existence of the secret agreement was disclosed during a strong attack on Mr Patten's proposals by Lu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, after the governor's fruitless visit to Peking last week. Mr Lu said that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, had agreed secretly on arrangements for the 1995 direct elections to the Legislative Council and suggested that Mr Patten's blueprint went against that secret

accord. In a specially convened session of the council after his Peking talks, Mr Patten admitted the existence of diplomatic exchanges regarding the polls, which will elect legislators to sit up to and beyond the colony's handover to the Chinese in 1997. However, he denied that there were any secret agreements that bound the hands of either Britain or China.

However, Hong Kong members of the Basic Law drafting committee, responsible for drawing up the territory's post-1997 mini-constitution, claimed they had known a Sino-British agreement on the 1995 election was in the making as early as the end of 1989 — months after the June crackdown on the student democracy movement in Tiananmen Square — and postponed their last round of meetings until the deal was reached.

● **Peking:** Lawyers from a dozen foreign law firms have been licensed to practise in China for the first time, according to the official *Business Weekly*.

The law firms are from America, Hong Kong, Britain and other European countries, but the justice ministry has not released a complete list. The newspaper said that the US-based Coudert Brothers, and the European law firms of Denton Hall, Lovell White and Adams were among those licensed to operate in Peking, Canton and Shanghai.

Previously, foreign law offices in China had to disguise themselves as consultancies, although Chinese authorities tacitly allowed them to provide legal information and draft contracts for foreign clients. Under the new regulations, licensed foreign lawyers will be allowed to represent foreign clients in negotiations and other areas, and provide legal advice. They can also represent Chinese companies abroad. (AP)

Akihito meets last emperor's brother

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

EMPEROR Akihito of Japan yesterday met the man who, if history had taken a different turn, would have been a fellow royal ruler, the Emperor of Manchukuo. On the first visit to China by a Japanese monarch, Emperor Akihito visited Pu Jie, the brother of the last Chinese emperor, Pu Yi.

Pu Jie was schooled in Japan, married a woman of Japanese royal blood and, with Pu Yi, collaborated with the Japanese in the second world war. So Pu Jie, 86, really is an old friend of Japan.

The would-be emperor turned commoner wore a Mao suit as a mark of his present affiliations, but memories of royal protocol die hard and Mr Pu made the traditional bow as he met the emperor. Mr Pu's imperial aspirations and his loyalty to Japan were long ago beaten

out of him by the Communists. The two men had little to talk about yesterday except Peking's chilly winters and how necessary it was to wear extra clothing. Empress Michiko has developed a cold since arriving in China.

In the 1930s, Japan had plans to set up a puppet state of Manchukuo in northeast China. In 1935, Pu Yi was installed as emperor, but was childless, so Pu Jie was his heir apparent. At the end of the war, the Communists jailed the brothers as traitors, gave them years of ideological "re-education" and released them in 1959. The last emperor, Pu Yi, having been removed from the throne of China in 1911, died in 1967.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko had another taste of empire yesterday, touring the Forbidden City.



Shore of safety: lifeguards on a Sydney beach testing new protective suits and lightweight helmets that will help prevent the increasing risk of skin cancer during the Australian summer, which brings months of temperatures above 90°F. As the style of dress evolves from *Baywatch* to *Star Wars*, so other

rescue equipment is becoming more sophisticated (James Morgan writes). Lifesavers will be using a high-speed personal water craft, the £6,000 42hp Yamaha Marine Jet, and long boards buoyant enough to hold seven people in the water. Jon Lavers, a senior lifeguard, said: "Having the wetbike is the

best thing that has happened in this line of work for 50 years. I have seen this job evolve from a point where they used to give you just a hat and a whistle to this new hi-tech stuff." The changes are particularly welcome to lifesavers on a coast that is threatened by increasing numbers of shark attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

20 killed at Natal farm party

Johannesburg: Gunmen with automatic rifles killed 20 people, including four women and two children, in a raid on a celebration at a farm in Natal at Fokweni, south of Durban, at the weekend. Twenty-seven people were wounded, police said.

The South African Press Association said that six teenagers, aged 15 and 16, were shot dead in the same town ship the previous night in fighting between the ANC and supporters of the Inkathu Freedom Party. (Reuters)

Border protest

Naili: Pakistani riot police hurled tear gas and fired at stone-throwing marchers to thwart attempts to storm the disputed border into Indian-controlled Kashmir. At least 30 protesters and about 12 police were wounded. (AP)

Flights stopped

Nairobi: America suspended relief flights to the central Somali town of Balidoo after one of its planes was hit by snaf arms fire near its fuel tank when it tried to deliver food. Nobody was hurt. (AFP)

Birth warning

Delhi: Speakers at the International Planned Parenthood Federation congress here said that the global population problem could be beaten only if India cuts its birth rate of 48,000 babies a day. (AFP)

Security ring

Yaounde: The home of John Fru Ndi, the Cameroonian opposition leader who alleged fraud in recent presidential elections after he was narrowly beaten by President Paul Biya, has been surrounded by police. (Reuters)

Gentile aid

Jerusalem: Infertile ultra-Orthodox Jews here who want to have children are being allowed to use non-Jewish imported sperm to avoid the danger of their offspring unintentionally committing incest. (AFP)

Mandela's daughter weds in splendour

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

LIKE most brides, Zinziwa — Zinzi to her friends — arrived at the church late. But when your father is Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, an organisation not noted for its timekeeping, the point can be stretched a little. In Zinzi's case, for her wedding in Johannesburg on Saturday to Zwelibanzi Hlongwane, it was stretched to an hour.

Nobody appeared to mind on an occasion that took on the lavish style of Hollywood and in its symbolism saw the bridging of violence-ridden South Africa's greatest divide. For Zinzi, 28, the youngest daughter of Mr Mandela and

his estranged wife, Winnie, is a Xhosa, and Zwelibanzi, 25, son of a businessman from Soweto, is a Zulu.

Throughout the ceremony in the Central Methodist Church, which was followed yesterday by a traditional African wedding in Soweto, a single candle representing peace and justice burned in a parbed-wire holder. Zinzi arrived at the church in her father's red Mercedes, which was given to him soon after his release from prison by motor industry workers, escorted by police motor cyclists with their sirens blaring.

She wore a white lace dress with diamante and rows of

pearls and sequins. She entered the church to shouts of "Viva the wedding of the daughter of the president" from the spectators and wedding guests. Mrs Mandela, resident in a shimmering emerald and purple dress, arrived in a separate car with her elder daughter Zeni and her husband, Prince Thumbumuzi Dlamini of Swaziland. The bride couple reappeared to shouts of "Amandla" (power) and clenched-fist salutes. Mr Mandela emerged and, without saying a word or giving her a glance, stood next to his wife for photographs.

Five hundred guests at the reception at the five-star

Carlton Hotel included Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, Miriam Makeba, the Soweto-born international singing star, members of the Swazi royal family, the ANC executive, diplomats and politicians. Five bands provided the entertainment.

The couple will set up home in Bez Valley suburb of Johannesburg, which was an exclusively white area until the scrapping of the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws. There they will be able to entertain their guests with a £3,000 dinner service lit from candles in £170 holders and serve drinks from a silver tray.

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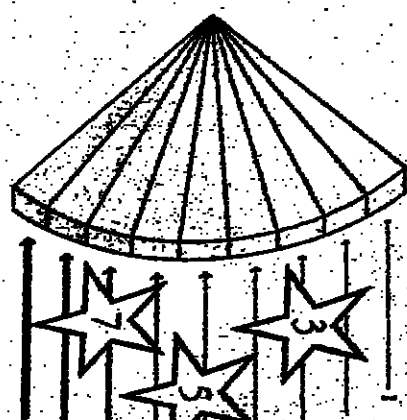


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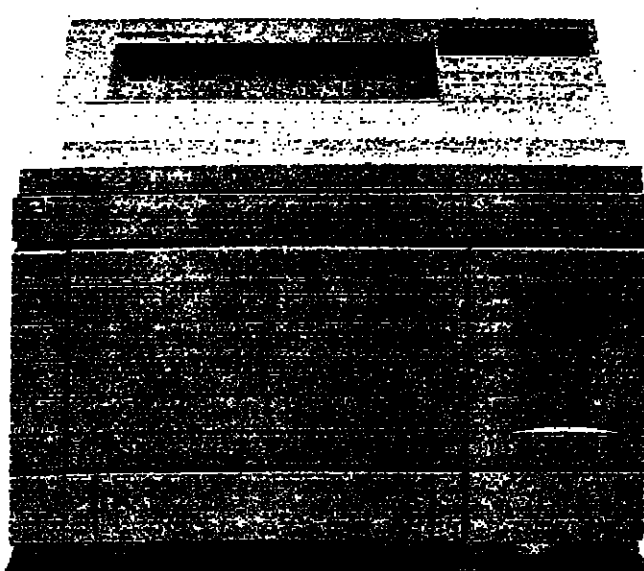
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Red Cross postpones plan to free inmates from Serb-run camps

By ADAM LEBOR IN SPLIT AND MICHAEL BINYON

THOUSANDS of terrified prisoners are still languishing in detention camps across northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, mostly run by Serbs, because Western countries have failed to offer them sanctuary.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been forced to postpone a huge rescue operation, planned for today, because the international community has not promised to take in inmates. Many relief workers in the former Yugoslavia say privately that the hypocrisy of Western governments in refusing to take in the prisoners is staggering.

A wave of revulsion swept around the world after television pictures showed skeletal figures cowering behind barbed wire, but there have not been many offers of help. "The world expressed outrage at the barbarism and atrocities that these people underwent," Ron Redmond, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in

Horrific images of skeletal figures behind bars left the West shaken, but not stirred into positive action

Geneva, said. "But now we cannot help them because countries are not offering them places."

Serb, Croat and Bosnian officials have agreed to the release of the prisoners. But Croatia, which is already struggling to cater for more than 700,000 refugees, will not accept any more until other countries agree to take in the inmates.

No detention camps are now visited regularly by the Red Cross, but the prisoners still live in appalling conditions. At Manjaca more than 3,000 inmates sleep on the floor in cowsheds and, in Karlovac, 1,500 former inmates are housed in overcrowded barracks.

A month ago, the UNHCR asked 46 countries to provide

temporary sanctuary for some of the 5,000 camp inmates. Some Western politicians argue that if they take in the prisoners, they will be helping to prolong the policy of "ethnic cleansing". However, the Red Cross argues that the situation is desperate now that winter is starting.

Patrick Gasser, the Red Cross leader in Split, said: "Who can reverse ethnic cleansing at this point? Our concern is how can we save these people's lives."

The Red Cross has transferred 1,737 former prisoners to third countries, including several dozen to Britain. However, the organisation says that despite repeated appeals only 500 more former inmates have been offered refuge.

Last month, Lady Chalker, the overseas development minister, visited the former prisoners in Karlovac. A spokeswoman for her department confirmed that the UNHCR letter had been received but said it would have to be considered by several government departments before any action could be taken.

Serb forces are still carrying out "ethnic cleansing". Relief workers say that between 200 and 300 displaced people are arriving in Travnik every day from northern Bosnia. They say the Muslims are forced to walk much of the day and up to 10 per cent, mostly men, are killed on the journey by Serb irregular forces.

The European Community has failed to agree a quota system for accepting refugees and former prisoners, despite intense German lobbying. Germany has taken in by far the largest number of refugees and Hungary, Austria, Sweden and The Netherlands have also accepted thousands.

Britain maintains that the victims of "ethnic cleansing" mostly Muslims, should not be spread all over Europe, but kept as close as possible to their former homes. There are now about 35,000 refugees from former Yugoslavia in Britain; they are allowed to stay for up to six months without visas as visitors. Only 3,000 have applied formally for political asylum, adding to a backlog of 57,000 applicants from all over the world.

The Home Office and Foreign Office said yesterday that they had had received no special request from the Red Cross to accept detainees from Serb camps and refugees were being accepted on an ad hoc basis.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs threatened at the weekend to deploy his forces' grounded warplanes to harass Croatian forces in southern Bosnia, and the Bosnian president hinted that the partition of his country was inevitable.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said on television on Saturday that he would seek authorisation from the Geneva peace negotiators to use the planes if the Croats continued to attack Serb territory around Trebinje, in southern Bosnia. The Serbs grounded the planes in the wake of the United Nations Security Council vote to ban all combat flights over Bosnia.

Aljia Izbetogovic, the Bosnian president, admitted in an interview that any settlement would have to take more account of Bosnia's ethnic divisions. He said the Muslims would have to go over to a more ethnic concept of Bosnian regions in order to make an agreement with the Croats. Until now Mr Izbetogovic has opposed cantonalisation along ethnic lines.



Soldier of misfortune: A procession of grieving family and friends follows the coffin of a Bosnian Serb soldier, killed recently in fierce fighting near the central Bosnian town of Maglaj. Peace negotiators have so far failed to halt the fighting

Dig for dirt in ancient brothels

From Richard Beeston in Jerusalem

MODERN Turkey's ancient ancestors relished the pleasures of the flesh. Byzantine and other cultures' sexual exploits has been an enduring feature on the historical landscape of the Holy Land. However, the recurring biblical tales of vice hardly prepared archaeologists for the extraordinary findings recently at two sites. In Israel, where historians have unearthed the possible remains of two Byzantine brothels.

Gabi Mazor, the director of the Israel Antiquities Authority excavation in the ancient Jordan Valley town of Bet Shean, said that archaeologists first became interested in Byzantine prostitution a few years ago after a dig in the coastal town of Ashkelon.

One building in particular raised suspicions because of the Greek inscription at the entrance which read: "Enter and enjoy yourself". Mr Mazor said: "In the sewage under the building they found the skeletal remains of newly born infants which presumably were the children of prostitutes abandoned in the gutter."

The most recent find at Bet Shean, however, is more extraordinary since the suspected sixth-century brothel is situated in the heart of the once affluent provincial capital of Palestine Secunda and was built by the governor for municipal use.

"What makes this building so unusual are the erotic inscriptions in the rooms of the semi-circular building which suggest it was a house of pleasure," said Mr Mazor. One inscription reads: "I pour passion like lightning in the eyes. The young women play the song of the dance opposite our doorway."

Another message adorning the wall was even more explicit: "To the friends of the Magus who decorated the room and amused themselves the night long with the young women. He who rouses passion brings on the joys of love." What exactly went on may never be known, historians say.

Bush plans \$300m penalty as EC trade war starter

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

THE Bush administration is preparing to place punitive import tariffs of \$300 million (£186 million) on French products as the first stage of a widening campaign of retaliation against European Community farm subsidies.

American sources said that unless the EC retreats from hardline positions it adopted last week, the administration intends to announce the list of French products, mainly cheese and wine, on November 4 — the day after the presidential election — and to implement the sanctions 30 days later. If the Community still did not back down, the tariffs would be expanded until they covered \$1 billion worth of EC products.

That would almost certainly trigger a transatlantic trade war and scupper any hope of concluding a 108-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) deal to liberalise global trade. A successful deal could inject \$200 billion into a feeble world economy.

Washington holds France mainly responsible for last week's breakdown of two years of talks on reducing the EC subsidies, particularly those for oilseeds, which are the main obstacle to the conclusion of the six-year-old Uruguay Round of the GATT talks. America apparently plans to make the French the immediate target of its anger with tariffs of 100 per cent or more on its products.

One administration source suggested that November 4, also the day of the next GATT council meeting, had been chosen to demonstrate that George Bush was serious about sanctions and was not just confronting the Community for electoral reasons. In fact, the administration appears virtually to have abandoned hope of achieving a pre-election breakthrough on GATT that would bolster Mr Bush's reputation as a world leader and champion of free trade.

Even if the EC backs down, both sides would have to move rapidly to save the Uruguay Round. If Bill Clinton wins next week's election, as expected, it would be hard for him, as an incoming president next January, to conclude a deal before his office's congressional negotiating mandate effectively expires March 1.

Nonetheless, Mr Clinton's advisers had discreetly advised the Europeans in recent weeks against a pre-election deal that

The global stakes are high. A successful GATT deal could inject \$200 billion into a feeble world economy

helped Mr Bush, saying that that would have been regarded as an unfriendly act.

The administration is evidently focusing on the narrow dispute over EC oilseed subsidies, which it contends have cost American soybean producers billions of dollars in lost exports. There are about 400,000 soybean producers concentrated in key electoral states such as Ohio and Missouri. Washington has been arguing for at least five years about the Community oilseed regime, and has won two rulings from GATT arbitration panels that the oilseed scheme violates earlier free trade agreements.

In Paris, Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, said there would be no conclusion of the GATT talks before the US presidential election on November 3, and warned his fellow EC leaders of a backlash from Europe's farmers if the Community split on the issue.

"We will not accept a GATT agreement unless it is one that completely preserves our agriculture," he told a gathering at

the Sorbonne. "We told our farmers that the common agricultural policy was a good thing because it allowed Europe to present a united front at the GATT negotiations. If the European side is to split — and I do not want that to happen — there will be massive anger from the agricultural sector."

He described the present state of the talks as "laborious", but said he would hold out for a balanced agreement. M. Bérégovoy said that all countries helped their agriculture, pointing to examples of direct grants given by the American government to US farmers. France would not accept a deal at the price of the collapse of French agriculture, with all of the social consequences such an event would bring, he said. "European heads of government understand me because they know that in a democracy you have to take account of the social equilibrium, the economic equilibrium."

Edouard Balladur, the former French finance minister who has a chance of becoming prime minister if the right wing wins the general election next March, argued on television that France should not give in to pressure on the GATT talks and that "the Europeans should prove their solidarity".

M. Balladur said he "did not much appreciate" the comments made on the negotiations last week by John Major.

Kohl's tax scheme under fire

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was criticised yesterday for his plan to raise taxes to help pay off the huge debt inherited from communist East Germany (Patrick Moser writes).

Herr Kohl faced severe criticism from the opposition, from his coalition partners, from his finance minister and from within his Christian Democratic Union, as it gathered for a vital party congress. The three-day congress opens today against the background of an increasingly gloomy economic outlook.

Freighter sinks

Amsterdam: A Norwegian freighter carrying more than 2,000 tonnes of lead concentrates sank off the Dutch coast, posing a serious pollution threat. All six of the *Nordfrakt's* crew were picked up. (Reuters)

Banks bombed

Ajaccio: Five bombs exploded outside Corsican banks or government offices, causing widespread damage but no casualties, police said. They suspect Corsican separatists. (Reuters)

Three stabbed

Port Said: A suspected Muslim militant stabbed three Russian tourists in a market here, Egyptian police said. The man stabbed one woman in the chest, another in the abdomen and her husband in the shoulder. (Reuters)

Cyprus meeting

Nicosia: Greek and Turkish Cypriots resume peace talks in New York today with little hope that this latest round sponsored by the UN will end the 18-year division of their island. The two sides are still far apart on key issues.

Voting halted

Bangui: Elections were suspended in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, and at the country's Paris embassy after disturbances, but maintained elsewhere. (AFP)

Firework deaths

Delhi: At least 25 people were killed and more than 100 injured in an explosion in a firework shop in Jaria in eastern India. Witnesses said many more may have died. (AFP)

UK unveils strategy for wounded soldiers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,400 British troops bound for Bosnia are to be supported by a front-line "Mash" field surgical team equipped to carry out operations. The arrangement will be similar to the surgical theatre set up at Port San Carlos during the Falklands war in 1982.

Plans are being made to ensure that British victims of the civil war receive treatment as quickly as possible and the government is under pressure to provide helicopters for casualty evacuation. Under the present arrangements, the British force will not have its own helicopters. The French, who have sent eight helicopters to Bosnia — four Pumas and four Gazelles — have told the British they can call on these in an emergency.

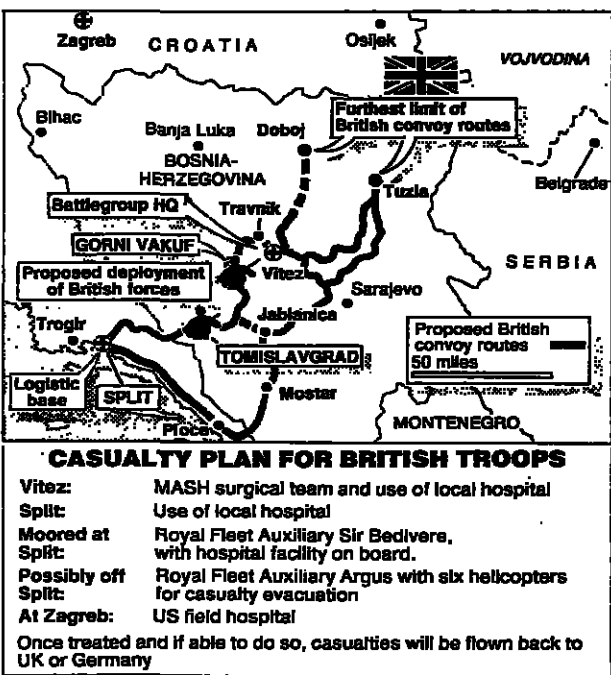
However, the military recognise the possible risks of having helicopters crossing different war zones to reach casualties and would prefer to be self-sufficient.

The proposal is that the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, *Argus*, which carries up to six Sea King helicopters, should be sent from Portland to the

Adriatic for casualty evacuation if the roads are blocked and for transporting troops in difficult areas. However, ministers have not yet decided whether to send her.

Under the planned medical arrangements, there will be three stages in dealing with British casualties: a regimental aid post on the spot will provide immediate first aid when a soldier is wounded. If the case is serious, the soldier will be taken by armoured ambulance to the Mash unit, which is expected to be based in a building in Vitez.

Surgeons will have the necessary equipment to carry out life-saving operations. One great achievement of the Mash team at Port San Carlos was that every wounded serviceman treated by the surgeons survived. Hospitals in Vitez and at Split are being reserved for convalescence. The planned 300-member American field hospital, to be based in or near Zagreb, will also be used for treatment. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, *Sir Bedivere*, with equipment for British troops, will arrive tomorrow.



Vilnius votes on future of Landsbergis

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

THE parliamentary elections held in Lithuania yesterday were contested by 17 political lists embracing 29 political parties and groups stretching from temperance to ecological movements. On one question, however, they were all clearly aligned: whether Dr Vytautas Landsbergis should be president if the new constitution is accepted. A referendum on the draft constitution accompanied the elections.

If the constitution is backed, elections for a non-executive presidency will be held in January. The draft was agreed by all the parties in the outgoing parliament, but the law states that more than 50 per cent of the electorate must vote yes for a proposal to be adopted. Apathy and extreme weather made for a poor turnout.

Extremists mount anti-Yeltsin drive

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

An unholy coalition of former communists, chauvinists and self-described fascists — all determined to remove President Yeltsin and reverse his pro-Western policies — gathered strength over the weekend.

With an enthusiasm that marked the liberal democratic movement two or three years ago, thousands of delegates cheered themselves hoarse at the founding congress of a "National Salvation Front", whose specific aim is to overthrow the president.

While most speakers remembered to say they would work within the law, they promised a widening series of protests, including industrial action, street demonstrations and agitation among Russian soldiers and civilians in the Baltic states.

On the fringes both of the congress, and of a separate street protest on Saturday by a militant communist faction, eager youths, some in black

shirts, handed out overtly pro-fascist literature. As though to symbolise the burying of differences within the anti-Western camp, the congress hall was draped with a huge Soviet flag and the black, gold and white banner of imperial Russia. "The question of who was right in 1917 is a strictly academic one," Mikhail Aisazhev, a nationalist politician, said in a ringing and enthusiastically received appeal for unity between sympathisers and opponents of Bolshevism.

Communists and nationalist speakers alike attacked the government for what they called the run-down of Russia's defences, betraying the welfare of ethnic Russians in other republics and selling out the country's economic interests to the International Monetary Fund.

The front's immediate goal is to secure the removal of the entire cabinet, and if possible President Yeltsin himself, at

the session of the Congress of People's Deputies, scheduled for December. It brings together the communist faction in parliament, led by Sergei Baburin, an able young law professor, with figures hitherto seen as potential instigators of extra-parliamentary protest.

The rise in "mainstream" opposition activity had provided a favourable background for an upsurge in the activity of the ultra-nationalist group known as Pamyat, or memory. Flanked by scores of youths in leather boots and black paramilitary uniform, Dmitri Vasilyev, the Pamyat leader, a burly and loquacious artist, photographer and historian, has used two recent press conferences to spell out his pro-fascist theories.

"We do not fear the word fascism, it is a spiritual phenomenon," he said to nods of approval from Orthodox

priests who have rebelled against the Moscow patriarchate. In an incident that sent shudders down liberal backs across Russia, uniformed Pamyat activists recently staged what they called a "visit" to the mass-circulation pro-Yeltsin newspaper, *Moskovsky Komsomolets*.

Bursting into the paper's morning editorial conference, they read out a denunciation of its "anti-Christian" stance and promised to take "decisive measures" against the paper unless this was corrected. The operation was described in glowing terms by Russia's best-known television presenter, Aleksandr Nevzorov, a friend of Pamyat.

Mr Vasilyev also circumsvents Russia's laws against stirring racial hatred by emphasising that he is against Zionism and the Jewish religion, but not against Jews as such. He says that Jews were among the perpetrators of the Holocaust.

Tajik forces defeat coup attempt by ousted president's rebels

By BRUCE CLARK

PRO-COMMUNIST forces attempting to seize power in Tajikistan were routed by government forces yesterday, said Alidjon Solibayev, the head of the republic's security forces.

"The attempted coup has failed. Some of the Kulyabi have fled, the others have been arrested," Mr Solibayev said of the supporters of Rakhmon Nabiyev, the ousted president. Dushanbe, the capital, is "practically controlled by government forces", he said.

Earlier, Russia was struggling to reimpose order on the strategic Central Asian republic as armed factions fought fierce battles for control of Dushanbe. Setting aside interference in a nominally independent state, Russian troops took control of the city's airport, railway station and broadcasting facilities while their commanders tried to broker a settlement. The Uni-

ted States evacuated its diplomats and nationals by air.

Latest reports said the Russian-mediated talks yielded a fragile agreement to convene an emergency session of the republic's hardline parliament, a move that could lead to the restoration of the hardline communist president. A Russian commander acted as go-between for Safarali Kenjayev, a key pro-Nabiyev politician, and Akbarsho Iskandrov, who has been acting president since Mr Nabiyev was ousted in September by a coalition of secular and Muslim rebels.

Fighters loyal to Mr Nabiyev used tanks and armoured cars to seize key government buildings in Dushanbe on Saturday morning. His opponents retained control of the interior ministry and the republican KGB and battled with heavy machine-

guns and grenade launchers to reverse their losses.

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defence minister, said his forces had taken control of transport installations in order to clear the way for an evacuation of Tajikistan's Russian community if necessary.

Russian and Central Asian leaders are alarmed by the clear links between the Muslim wing of the anti-Nabiyev coalition and ethnic Tajik warriors who dominate neighbouring northern Afghanistan. The Tajik-Afghan border is seen as the most likely conduit for the spread of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the southern flank of the former Soviet Union. The Russian foreign ministry said that there could be "catastrophic consequences" if the current fighting spread, and it proposed the dispatch of a peacekeeping force.

Canada's tribes line up to kill off constitutional package



Bourassa: fighting for approval of accord

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN KAHNAWAKE
MOHAWK INDIAN RESERVATION, QUEBEC

CANADIANS go to the polls today to vote on the Charlottetown accord, the latest package of constitutional reforms aimed at keeping the French-speaking province of Quebec within the national confederation and resolving the country's long-running constitutional impasse.

Quebec appears certain to reject the accord, which recognises the province as a "distinct society" but does not, according to Quebecois nationalists, go far enough to protect French culture and language. The western provinces of Alberta and British Columbia will probably vote the same way, arguing that Quebec has been granted too much. Under the strict terms of the constitution, a "no" vote does not destroy all hope of resurrecting the accord, but

The hostility of native Indians and the Inuit towards the Charlottetown accord is adding to the turmoil threatened by Quebec's separatist French-speakers

Mohawk Indians, lies just across the St Lawrence River from Montreal, but in most respects it is a world away from the rest of Canada. A dour, depressing place of disembowelled lorries and shabby shops selling cigarettes at a discount, Kahnawake is the focus of intense Mohawk nationalism.

The Mohawks are among the most aggressively independent of Canada's Indian tribes. Many of their chiefs have not only opposed the Charlottetown accord, but have banned the government from setting up polling booths in the reservation. Mohawks wishing to vote



today will have to leave the reservation, but most will abstain.

Around George's Ham-burger Paradise, a group of Indian youths in baseball caps huddle out of the rain, smoking cheap cigarettes. "Why should we vote?" one asks angrily. "It is not our problem. We are Indian, not Canadian."

The leaders of the Mohawk nation argue that the accord would affirm a right to self-government that they say is already theirs. They say the deal would effectively nullify their historic treaty rights, established between the British Crown and the

Perot's sudden surge threatens Democratic victory in the final lap

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE strangest presidential election of recent times yesterday entered its last full week with a sudden Ross Perot surge beginning to threaten a Democratic victory that had looked inevitable, and setting the stage for a nail-biting campaign climax.

Bill Clinton remains the clear favourite, but weekend polls disclosed the first closing of the gap since high summer and offered a glimmer of new hope to George Bush. The president is attracting barely a third of the vote, but Mr Perot has siphoned off enough of Mr Clinton's support to cut his lead to single figures.

A CBS-New York Times poll gave Mr Clinton a lead of just five points, his smallest since before the Democrats' convention in July. Mr Clinton had 40 per cent down 30 points since early this month. Mr Bush 35, down three points, and Mr Perot 15, up eight.

Confirming the trend, a Washington Post survey showed Mr Clinton at 42 per cent, down four points, Mr Bush little changed at 34, and Mr Perot up 11 to 20, his highest since he returned to the race last month. Time gave

Mr Clinton 38, Mr Bush 31 and Mr Perot 17. Only Newsweek showed Mr Clinton comfortably ahead on 42 per cent, with Mr Bush on 30 and Mr Perot on 22.

Despite the national surveys, Mr Clinton remains well ahead in most of the key battleground states. With eight days to go, he looks unassailable in California and New York, the two biggest states with 87 of the 270 electoral college votes required for victory. He also has double-figure leads in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania, four critical "rustbelt" states with 84 more votes. At the same time, Mr Perot could prevent Mr Bush taking Texas, the third largest state which the president must win.

Mr Perot's untidy unorthodox campaign has shaken both the mainstream parties. Since his re-entry he has spurred all professional advisers and refused most interviews. Before rallies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey late yesterday he had not attended any public events.

Mr Perot claimed yesterday that he was driven from the race in July by Republican

dirty tricks, including plans to wiretap his office and disrupt his daughter's wedding, but Mr Bush and Mr Clinton are both constrained from attacking the Texan independent lest they drive his supporters to the other.

Mr Perot is also bent on defining himself this time, with his commercials mostly consisting of glowing testimonials from family, friends and beneficiaries of his charitable acts. Mr Perot's near-record negative ratings, the legacy of July's abrupt withdrawal, have plummeted, while polls show that public confidence in Mr Clinton has been shaken by Mr Bush's relentless assaults on his character. Mr Perot is attracting millions who have given up on Mr Bush and distrust Mr Clinton.

The possible permutations are endless. Democratic strategists argue that defeat to Mr Perot would hurry back if they feared Mr Bush might win by default. Mr Perot could either peak and fade because voters were reluctant to "waste" their vote, or gather momentum as his candidacy became ever more credible.

Conceivably Mr Bush's support could haemorrhage to Mr Perot if the president's cause looked hopeless. His support alone has remained virtually static and far too low to win. Last night Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate, said Mr Perot should at least be considered for a position in the next administration if Mr Bush wins.

The New York Times, New York Daily News, Philadelphia Inquirer and Denver Post endorsed Mr Clinton yesterday, while the Houston Post and Houston Chronicle backed Mr Bush. The president was hit by fresh allegations on the Iran-Contra and Iraq scandals. An article in today's New Yorker magazine claims Mr Bush, as vice-president, visited the Middle East in 1986 to encourage Iraqi bombing raids against Iran so Tehran would want more US air defence weaponry, thus increasing Washington's leverage in hostage negotiations.

Women rally, page 14
Peter Riddell, page 16

Republicans regret 'pro-life' support

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

ANTI-abortion leaders attacking Bill Clinton have been distributed to thousands of American churches. They say that "the shepherds must warn the sheep not to vote for the wolf" and that Mr Clinton "stands for an anti-God agenda". To vote for him is to "sin against God".

In the 1980s, the Republicans were helped by their opposition to abortion, dovetailing as it did with the widely popular Reaganite stance against permissiveness, and they welcomed the religious right wing's ferocious campaign against "pro-choice" Democrats.

Times have changed. The anti-abortion leader, the work of Randall Terry, the founder of a direct action "pro-life" group, has found little favour with a Bush-Quayle campaign that in recent weeks has wanted to play down its pro-life position and forget much of the traditional family rhetoric it deployed at the start of this year's election campaign. "We have no association with Mr Terry and no comment on his pamphlet," said Tom Clark, a campaign spokesman.

that the Republicans adopted at their convention in Houston in the summer has repelled more voters than it has attracted. A survey in the Los Angeles Times last month found that 30 per cent were less likely to vote for President Bush because of his anti-abortion position. Only 18 per cent mentioned Mr Clinton's advocacy of choice as a drawback.

Until this year, it was pro-life supporters, encouraged by television evangelists such as Pat Robertson and fundamentalist churches, who were more likely to cast their vote solely on the basis of abortion. Americans who favoured the "right to choose" were generally not single-issue voters.

But with the recent Supreme Court decisions backing the legal right of states to pass legislation restricting access to abortion, and after four years of an administration that has prevented federally funded health clinics from providing abortion advice, the pro-choice forces have mobilised support throughout the country.

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Celebrity substitute: President Bush is pitched into a weekend soccer game with members of the Plaza Grill Kids team in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr Bush, on a pre-election tour of the southern states, took to the field as a short diversion from his morning jog.

Clinton faces liberal push for rapid job creation

BY IRWIN STELZER

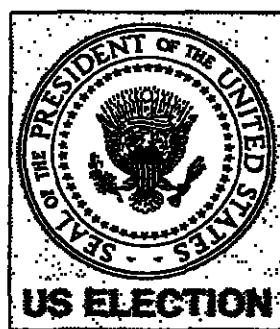
"JOBS, jobs, jobs," chanted President Bush when asked to list the three key issues in this campaign. Republicans within his administration agree. They are flooding law firms, think tanks and trade associations with their resumes in a frantic search for jobs, jobs, jobs after the election. Believing defeat is nigh, they are dividing their time between blaming others for the administration's failure and making their availability known to prospective employers.

Meanwhile, the first signs of a Clinton economic stimulus are already being anticipated. Estate agents and removal firms are gearing up to handle the change-over. With some thousands of jobs within the new president's gift. Demo-

crats from Arkansas to California are sniffing around Georgetown and other fashionable sections of Washington in the search for suitable accommodation.

More important is the business of divining the contours of the incoming crowd's policies. Those policies, most experts here agree, would start to become apparent in the event of a victory by Bill Clinton on November 3.

That, at least, was the conclusion of a private briefing conducted by four of the nation's leading political analysts for a small group at the American Enterprise Institute. My colleagues Karllyn Keene, Norm Ornstein, Bill Schneider and Ben Wattenberg agree that, for Bill Clinton, the first 100 days



[would] start November 4, not January 20. Ms Keene, probably the closest and most skilful of the poll-watchers here, says she has never seen such a degree of economic pessimism as now prevails. Even though the economy is growing, albeit slowly, 70 per cent of Americans believe we are in a recession, and 90 per

cent say that the national economy is in unsatisfactory shape. From this, Ms Keene concludes that Mr Clinton would have only a short honeymoon.

Mr Clinton would be joined in his desire for quick action by the new Congress. For the first time in decades, there would be a substantial turnover of members, with perhaps 135 of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives going to freshmen pledged to end the gridlock that has paralysed government during the Bush administration.

Indeed, Mr Schneider thinks that Mr Clinton may find himself threatened by a runaway Congress, more liberal than he is, eager to enact an expensive "Great Society — Part II".

So look for an activist Presi-

dent-elect Clinton. But doing what? There is little question that Mr Clinton's primary mandate is to kick-start the economy. The voters' perception that the economy is sick will not easily be changed by the upturn in business activity that most experts on the economy are predicting will start in the new year. They want action.

Mr Clinton would, at minimum, accelerate the programme of public works in the road-building and other sectors that are already planned, and most likely propose additions to such infrastructure spending.

Dr Stelzer is a resident scholar at the American Institute in Washington DC and is contributing a weekly column to The Times in the run-up to the American election.

Health industry awaits radical surgery

FROM ANTHONY HOWARD IN WASHINGTON

Health care in America, the latest Ross Perot advertisement insists, "is in critical condition". It is one proposition on which the independent candidate for the presidency can probably count on commanding general assent.

The need to find a better way of financing the nation's medical care — and of extending protection against illness to those at present uncovered by insurance — is a theme that unites all the three candidates.

There is no single system of health care in the America. The elderly, regardless of means, are looked after under a federal government scheme called Medicare; the jobless poor are catered for by Medicaid, although some estimates have it that less than half of those living below the poverty line are afforded any protection by the programme. Those in another arbitrary category are a good deal more fortunate. Ex-servicemen and their

families live under the umbrella of what is virtually a national health service in miniature.

Most Americans, however, meet their health costs through private insurance schemes, with the premiums normally paid by the companies for which they work. George Bush and Bill Clinton favour the maintenance of that sort of voluntary system. Big companies have come to expect to supply comprehensive health insurance as a regular "fringe benefit", but that has seldom been the practice with small businesses with fewer employees. The result is a marked discrepancy in the private sector between the 150 million Americans for whom ill health has ceased to be an economic terror and the 35 million uninsured for whom it remains not only a medical but also a financial catastrophe.

The argument in the field of health in this election is basically how to solve that

dilemma. Mr Perot has been quite ready to draw attention to it, but so far has failed to offer any solution (beyond suggesting that rich people, such as himself, should not be entitled to any benefits under the Medicare scheme). Mr Bush and Mr Clinton have been equally unrealistic in suggesting that they can see ways of overcoming the problem without involving any extra taxes for anyone.

Their approaches are not wholly dissimilar. Each places his faith in the free market and the price control that he hopes will be exercised by greater competition. To that end, the president and his main opponent have given their support to "health maintenance organisations": sponsoring groups that, they argue, should be able to negotiate better deals with hospitals and doctors on behalf of consumers.

Mr Clinton goes one step further than his rival in being ready to set a limit on all health spending, whether public or private (how this version of "capping" will work in practice he has, perhaps prudently, not yet been disclosed). The president, for his part, says that the setting of any such limit can only slow medical innovation and deny to the people their access to advanced technology.

It is hard to resist the conclusion that neither is addressing the real problem. The congressional budget office has estimated that national spending on health care will rise from \$808 billion (£500 billion) this year to \$1,700 billion in the year 2000. That means that, as a proportion of the nation's total output, it will have increased from 13.6 per cent to 18 per cent in less than a decade. Somehow more radical surgery than has yet been contemplated by either party looks like being required if the health industry is not to distort the entire economy.

'The complete answer to male impotence'

A new book by W. Walsh. Foreword — Dr. A. Williams.

IF your sex drive isn't quite what it used to be — there's no need to worry. These days, most men can lead a healthy virile sex life right into their eighties.

The truth is practically all forms of impotence & premature ejaculation can now be treated successfully. The complete answer to male impotence tells you how.

In it, W. Walsh explains that, in the past, men's reluctance to discuss the

problem plus poor diagnostic procedures meant treatment would frequently fail. Furthermore, the author reveals how stress, illness, low self-esteem, medical drugs, etc affect the male libido and how, more importantly, very often all you need is a simple 'kick-start' to give you back your confidence and virility.

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THE LONDON DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE, 88 HARLEY STREET, LONDON W1N 1AF

Alienated by sexual stereotyping, American women have a blunt message for men in politics, says Kate Muir



A call to arms: the enthusiasm of a woman delegate listening to Texas governor Ann Richards in 1988 typifies the new mood of American politics

Female legions rally to Clinton

The 1992 American election has been declared "The Year of the Woman". Of course, 1988 and 1984 elections were declared the year of the woman, too. But this time the slogan comes close to the truth.

In the primaries earlier this year an unprecedented number of women candidates won nominations in the most unlikely places. Surprises included black Democrat Carol Moseley Braun knocking out the male incumbent in Illinois, because 62 per cent of the women voting backed her.

The latest figures show 11 women are standing for the 98 per cent-male Senate, and 106 for the 94 per cent-male Congress. The female candidates have often come up through local and state politics and are on average in their late forties or early fifties. Most are crude and articulate, but to have any chance of success they must meet American expectations by over-dressing like television anchorwomen. Among the warm white wine and runny bric that accompa-

nies their constant fund-raising, they have dryly declared their intention to "work our earrings off" in the campaign.

Why will 1992 be different? First, there is the growing willingness of women voters to support women candidates. Second, the women politicians now have giant fundraising machines behind them. Third, the shift in post-Cold War politics from foreign and defence to domestic recession-obsession means "women's issues" — health care, welfare, family leave, abortion — have suddenly become mainstream. As America turns away from the world to examine its own navel, its politicians must face beady female eyes.

And women voters do not like what they see. A third of Democratic women and a fifth of Republicans say they would rather vote for an opposing female candidate than a man from their own party. More worrying for the suits-in-the-Senate is that women make up 54 per cent of the electorate. An estimated ten million more women will vote than men.

The Republican party has succeeded in irritating women most. A *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* poll published 11 days ago showed women favoured Governor Bill Clinton over President Bush by 16 per cent — 3 or 4 per cent more than men.

The main female complaint is the same as the male one: the shrivelling economy. Thereafter, however, President Bush's anti-abortion stance is often cited by Republican women as a turn-off. Pat Buchanan and his cohorts' portrayal of Hillary Clinton as a careerist neglecting her family added to their ire. The convention familyfest, where the entire Bush brood was displayed by its matriarch, was considered to be overkill and Vice President Quayle's terrible attacks on single mothers and declining family values have done nothing to improve the average woman's view of Republicans.

The Bush-Quayle campaign utterly misjudged the typical 1990s female mood. Of course, die-hard Republicans, and those who cannot bring themselves to trust the supposedly draft-dodging, philandering Mr Clinton, will stay with the Grand Old Party. But the country's biggest interest group is 57 million full or part-time working women. It is larger than the Catholic vote, the black vote, the pensioners vote, the labour vote and the farm vote, and it is showing signs of alienation.

Working women are some of the people most likely to feel

the effects of recession, when a second salary is necessary to keep the household running, or as single parents. The poll showed the issue they most worried about was unemployment. Laying a "family values" guilt trip on them about neglecting their children was an unwanted extra.

As Grace Mirabella, the magazine publisher, put it in an acclaimed address to the Republicans in the *New York Times*: "Keep giving us a weak economy and even more women (including the cookie bakers) will be looking for paying jobs."

Keep on with your code words denigrating women and you may find you've unleashed a female electoral force much more powerful than you ever imagined. Women resent

your use of them as symbols of an imaginary way of life that lets you avoid telling us what you would do to lead the nation. We are too smart to buy this."

As the Bush-Quayle campaign watched the gender gap widen, they made some amends. Mr Quayle started talking vaguely about "traditional values" rather than family ones and hobnobbed with single mothers. Then he said if his daughter got pregnant, he would try to persuade her to keep the child, but ultimately it was her choice.

(His wife Marilyn later vehemently denied this.) All this was still too little, too late.

Few women saw the back-from-the-dead Perot campaign as a sensible option, especially after he made front-page news by complaining that two female television interviewers were "trying to prove their manhood" by asking him hard-hitting questions. Earlier, he lamented that the biggest problem in his computer company was that women "keep getting married and leaving."

However, the mood of dissatisfaction that brought Perot forth is the same mood which will help female candidates.

There's a real anti-incumbency feeling, a back-

lash against the old boys' network. People want to see change, and they think women will bring it," says Deborah Davis Hicks, of Emily's List, an acronym for Early Money Is Like Yeast — it makes the dough rise. The List has raised \$5m (£3.1m) for 44 Democratic pro-choice women candidates. They will only back candidates with a good chance of winning.

The List says that in elections, "money is the first rule, the second rule, and the third rule." The two Senate races in California for former San Francisco mayor Dianne Fein-

stein and former Congresswoman Barbara Boxer are expected to cost between \$10m and \$15m, mostly in advertising. In previous elections, only men had access to such sums.

The Republicans have set up a similar organisation called Wish, Women in the Senate and House, which raises funds for their female candidates. The Women's Campaign Fund (WCF) is bi-partisan and raises early money for women politicians standing at both state and local level, as well as those aiming for Washington.

An unexpectedly large source of money has been Hollywood, the home, according to Mr Quayle, of the dreaded "cultural elite". The Hollywood Women's Political Committee (HWPC) has raised \$5m for "progressive issues" since 1984, and is often behind the funding for pro-choice rallies.

The festiveness of the women's campaigns has risen in direct proportion to the recent slights to their sex. The candidates' wives have made an ideal battleground. Marilyn Quayle tells the convention that "essential nature" by staying at home with their children. Hillary Clinton and Barbara Bush are trapped by *Family Circle* into their famous chocolate chip cookie bake-off. Sick of being cardboard cut-out role models, American women are about to give politics a shake. The feeling is that if the men in Washington don't get it, let them eat chocolate chips.

'Women resent your use of them as symbols'

"How can you help your school? You stand for election as a governor. There's a daunting book full of requirements and stacks of local authority documents. There seem to be meetings into the night and you need a degree in acronyms."

HELP IS AT HAND

In this Friday's Governors' Guide. The Times Educational Supplement explains all you need to know about the curriculum.

TES
GOVERNORS' GUIDE

PART 3
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Whatever the age, it's time for a put-down

The sexes have never had a good word for each other

Who said: "A woman's place is in the wrong"? The phrase belongs to James Thurber. The sentiments could be those of Aristotle, Confucius, St Paul, Mohammed, Napoleon, Darwin, Freud and Nietzsche, not to mention Telly Savalas who said: "I adore women. I am their total slave up to a certain point. I pamper them, cater to them, but when necessary, you have to bop 'em."

Tama Starr has been collecting such gems for 20 years and her anthology of them is published this week. According to the 700 quotations in the book, women are stupid, idle, jealous, vain, inconstant and immoral on a good day and just downright evil the rest of the time.

The anthology sets out the "complete Theory of Female Inferiority", arranged and presented so clearly that even a woman can understand it. The 50 centuries of instructions and insults range from the downright cruel: "If a woman speaks... disrespectfully to a man, that woman's mouth shall be crushed with a fired brick" (Urukagina, king of Sumer, 2350 BC) to the merely unkind: "People ask me how many children I have and I say one boy and seven mistakes" (Mohammed Ali, 1985).

The smile tends to freeze slightly to the discovery that Hippocrates of



Bad mouthing: Hollywood stars Jayne Mansfield and Telly Savalas

Ephesus's 6th century BC dictum: "A woman gives a man but two happy days: the day he marries her and the day he buries her" is echoed down the years in cultures as diverse as the Balkans, Persia, and 18th century England, ending in media mogul Ted Turner's crack: "Henry VIII didn't get divorced, he just had [his wives] heads chopped off when he got tired of them. That's a good way to get rid of a woman — no alimony."



Ms Starr began her compilation when she was studying comparative religion for her masters degree at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "I was looking for the universal truths religions share; I kept coming across this universal lie. They started seeing them everywhere."

There would be uncanny echoes of, say, 10th century China in something said in 1980s Britain or you would find the proverb "Woman

is man's Satan" in Danish, Greek, Arabic, Persian and Russian. Ms Starr is optimistic about the future, however. "It was much harder to find the moderns. The fathers are watching their lips more carefully these days."

Her research seems not to have jaundiced her attitude to men. She was very fond of her father, likes her brother and has been in the same relationship with investment broker Charles Portney for 12 years. She has, however, declined to marry.

"My maternal grandfather used to say 'Don't be too smart, no one will want you' so now I say 'Look I was too smart'. I do identify marriage with the giving up of self and I just couldn't bring myself to do that."

Given the broad lexicon of terms defining woman as overly mouthy — fishwife, nag, scold and the rest — it is surprising that a parallel compilation of insults is not available to women. Is that women are too subtle? Or maybe they don't even care, underlining Virginia Woolf's question, "Why are women so much more interesting to men than men are to women?" None the less, all has not been silence: some women can't keep their mouths shut.

The topics are much the same — sex, marriage, the struggle for supremacy — but where men profess a bemused fury, women offer chilly disdain.

"The only really masterful noise a man makes in a house," said the French novelist Colette, "is the noise of his key, when he is still on the landing, fumbling for the lock." While Madame de Sévigné declared:

"The more I see of men the more I admire dogs."

There is also the matter of brains. In Adam Bede, George Eliot had a character admit, "I'm not deryin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men", while the writer Charlotte Whitton pointed out that "Whatever women do they must do twice as good as men to be thought half as good. Luckily this is not difficult."

As far as sex goes, as two blonde bombshells, respectively Jayne Mansfield and Mae West, have put it, "Men are those creatures with two legs and eight hands", and "Give a man a free hand and he'll run it all over you."

But it is marriage, in the words of New York feminist Karen Durbin, "a story where two people agree to tell the same lie", that elicits the bitterest remarks. Dorothy Parker, who preached the larger sex-war as her daily test, sedulously avoided such entanglements. The playwright Clare Boothe Luce opined, "The first man who can think of how he's going to stay in love with his wife and another woman is going to win that prize they're always talking about in Sweden."

Let Parker have the last word. Every pain has its remedy: "Where's the man could ease a heart/Like a satin gown?"

LIZ GILL and JONATHAN GREEN

● In Her Master's Voice — five thousand years of put-downs and pin-ups by Tama Starr is published by Penguin on October 29 (£8.99)

In defence of parents

How will a lawyer argue the case for the working mothers she represents?

If working parents need the circus skills of a juggler, they also quickly realise how much they need each other for mutual support and shared knowledge on everything from local schools to childminders.

It was a lack of such information that prompted the setting up of the Working Mothers' Association in Clapham, London, in 1985. Last week, the organisation, now a national network reaching more than 7,000 members and with more than 130 corporate members, elected a new chair — for the first time a working mother from the business sector.

As a 31-year-old commercial lawyer and mother of three children aged under five, Laura McRoberts represents for many the living reality of today's working mother. She is a solicitor specialising in UK and EC competition law for the City firm Slaughter & May and regularly travels overseas for work.

Her appointment comes at a time when 70 per cent of parents with children under five are using some form of childcare, and new initiatives on childcare seem remote.

"We believe that the funding for childcare and the creative ideas about family friendly policies are likely to be increasingly provided by and thought up by the private sector," Ms McRoberts says. "Possibly, they will be in partnership with national or local government."

The daughter of a working mother and a working grandmother, Ms McRoberts grew up expecting to follow their example. "My mother was a secretary and always worked. My grandmother was her source of childcare because she worked as a seamstress from home. Sometimes my mother worked part-time, and sometimes she changed her job to fit around us."

"Sometimes my father was able to look after us. He was a detective and worked shifts. I never thought about the fact that my mother worked."

Her working day starts at 8.30am and ends at 6.30pm. At this level, this kind of

firm, it is impossible to have flexible working patterns," she says. "You have to commit yourself fully, which I am prepared to do. My career goals are in no way affected by having children." She employs a full-time NNEB nanny. Her partner Mark Campbell, also a solicitor, is a partner in the City firm Clifford Chance.

"Because we do a very similar job, there is no competition in terms of who works a longer day or who has a tougher job than the other," she says. "That makes things easier in reality as well as in theory. Mark shares a lot of the work. He does all the cooking and we liaise during the day to see who can get home first."

She says she has a "very good idea" of where she wants the WMA to go in the next two years. "I'm good at being an advocate for a cause, and especially one I'm emotionally committed to," she says.

The association, a charity, has a budget of £140,000, which includes a £15,000 grant from the health department. Reed Personnel Services gives £20,000 a year; BHS sponsors the association's publication, the *Working Parents Handbook*. But the government has made it clear that grants will no longer be automatically awarded.

The WMA's time could be thought to be a different for members and sponsors, being not only dowdy and forgettable but discriminatory too. Why does it stick with it? "The name reflects exactly what the organisation was when it was founded," Ms McRoberts says. "It also reflects the reality, because women still bear the brunt of childcare, and they are often seen as career dis-advantaged. Having that name, I think, is a support network for working parents and their children, and it is important not to change the name. It is more a matter of when we change the name than if we do."

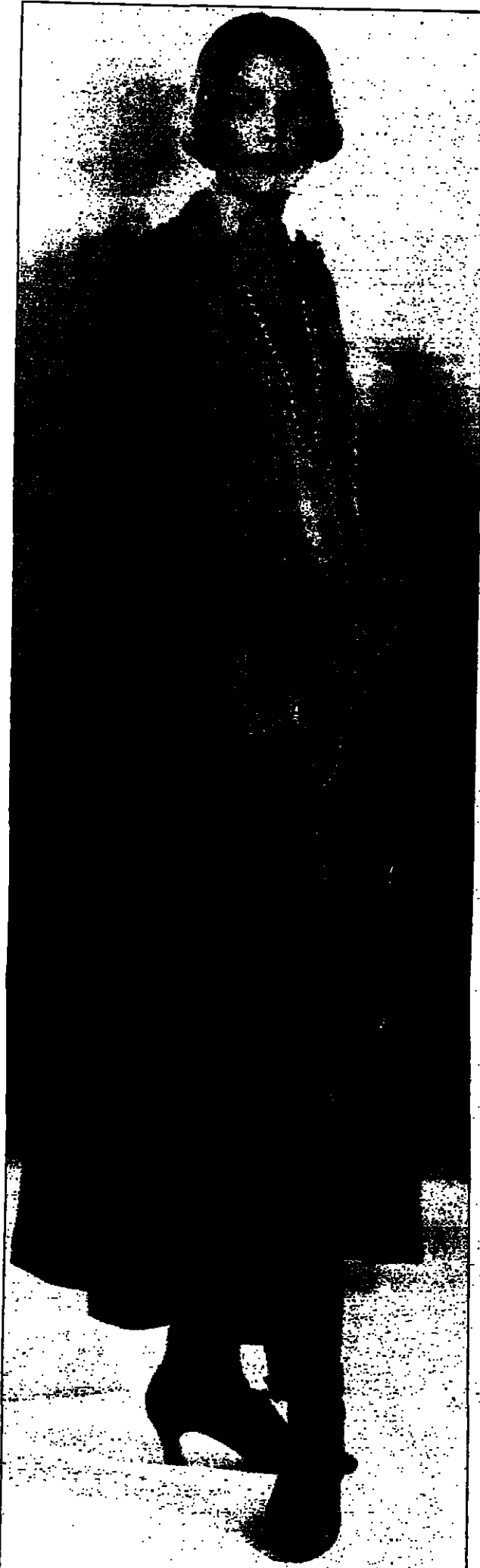
RAY MARLES



Living the part: Laura McRoberts with her children

Greying at the temples

From couture houses to the high street, it can be exciting to change into neutral, says Iain R. Webb



HOT LINE

Under the hammer

ONE of the biggest collections of haute couture garments to be seen under one roof will be in Paris next month. Couturiers, designers and socialites have donated the clothes for an auction in aid of La Fondation pour l'Enfance, a charity set up by Madame Giscard d'Estaing, the wife of the former president of France, to help underprivileged children.

On offer at the Musée de la Mode et du Costume will be garments by more than 40 designers dating from the early 1960s to now. Star item will be the Givenchy-designed black duchesse satin evening shift worn by Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Viewing days are November 16, 17 and 18 at the Musée de la Mode et du Costume, Palais Galliera, 10 Avenue Pierre 1er Serbie, Paris 75116. Sale: November 19, 8.30pm.

Golden days

THE Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths will hold an exhibition of the work of Elizabeth Gage, who holds the Queen's Award for export achievement, in the Goldsmiths Hall, November 4-20. Elizabeth Gage has been designing jewellery inspired by mythology and ancient cultures for 20 years and the exhibition will include work previously unseen by the public. Prices from £1,000 to £50,000.

Who's First?

CHRISTMAS shopping by catalogue is becoming an easy option. One of the best of the new batch is The First Catalogue, launched in June by the Terrence Higgins Trust, and featuring T-shirts by designers Workers for Freedom, Christopher New and Paul Smith (from £8.95), heart jewellery (from £2.95) and a tough black Fashion Axe despatch bag (£22.95). Now the trust has launched The Christmas Catalogue with an exclusive collection of cards, diaries and notebooks, featuring the works of pop artist Keith Haring and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (notebooks from £3.99, Christmas cards £2 for five). Catalogues: see to The First Catalogue or The Christmas Catalogue, Terrence Higgins Trust, 52-54 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8JU.

SARAH NEWTON

MUM SAYS SHE
LIKES GLASS BECAUSE
IT'S RECYCLABLE.
I JUST LIKE
THE SOUND IT MAKES
IN THE
BOTTLE BANK.

The average family throws out as much as a tonne of rubbish every year. So it's hardly surprising more and more people are making a noise about recycling.

But do you sometimes wonder whether saving the odd marmalade jar for the bottle bank will really make much difference to the environment?

All we ask is that you read on and make up your own mind.

For a start, the glass industry uses all the glass it gets back from the bottle banks.

This is largely because it's one of the easiest materials to recycle.

In fact, a quarter of all the glass on your supermarket shelves has been used before.

This year, the glass you put in bottle banks will save about 400,000 tonnes of raw materials and 25 million litres

of oil (enough to run your central heating for about 20,000 years). And each time it goes through the recycling process, it saves more.

Reasons enough, you might think, for liking the sound of glass.

Well, it's also hygienic, it never affects the taste of food or drink and it even keeps things fresher for longer than other packaging materials.

And for once, saving the environment doesn't cost you. Glass is still one of the cheapest packaging materials around.

So please keep on using the bottle bank.

A bottle here and a jar there might not sound much.

But for your children and your children's children, the recycling message is amongst the most important they are ever going to hear. BRITISH GLASS



Above, double breasted suit, £1500, pearl choker, £580, both Chanel, 28 Old Bond St, W1, and 31 Sloane St, SW1
Silk chiffon stole — Harriet Anstruther — £100, Matches, 34 High Street, Wimbledon Village, SW19; Soga, Piccadilly, W1
Leather gloves — Denis — £38.85, Selfridges and Owen Owen
Wool beret — Kangol — £4.99, Owen Owen

Top, silver pin-stripe jacket, £410, Ronit Zilkha, 34 Brook Street, W1, and 70 Hampstead High Street, NW1
Silk chiffon spot scarf, £39, from selected branches of Jaeger
Furgora beret — Kangol — £8.95, John Lewis Partnership
Silk flower, John Lewis and other stores

Left, long wool cardigan — Betty Jackson — £257, Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, SW3; Joanna's Tent, 289 BDC Kings Road, SW3; Mango, 19 St Leonard's Road, Windsor
Silk shirt — Edina Ronay — £255, Edina Ronay, 141 Kings Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1
Silky trousers, £99, Jaeger, 200-206 Regent Street, W1
Long string of pearls, £100, short string of pearls, £49, both Manqueita, 20A Kensington Church Walk, W8
Silk flower, from a selection at John Lewis and other stores
Creme ribbon tie shoe, £135, to order from Jimmy Choo, 071-249 2082

Photographs: MARTYN THOMPSON, Make-up: RUTH FUNNELL, Hair: TONY ALLEN

made for grey, (maybe it's the weather?) using every shade and fabric available to them. Jean Muir makes much of a simple V neck cashmere dress. Jasper Conran elaborates on the trouser suit. Edina Ronay wraps her gun-metal matt sequin dresses in huge fake chinchilla coats, while Ronit Zilkha highlights the glamour of grey, taking traditional flannel pin-stripe, jazzed up with the pizzazz of hurex thread. Betty Jackson, arguably Britain's strongest designer of casual chic, uses the entire

he word even sounds boring. Grey. The colour of school uniforms, businessmen's suits, and the dreary British weather. Grey. Synonymous with all things characterless. Television's *Spitting Image* team paint their lacklustre prime minister John Major as a grey man in a grey suit. What could be more boring? It is interesting, then, to see the colour grey emerge as the predominant neutral for autumn/winter 1992. Outing beige and navy, grey has become the number one favourite of not only the international designers but also high street emporiums. Everybody loves grey.

On closer inspection its success is not such a surprise. It is an easy colour (technically a non-colour) to wear, and the least effort is needed to put together a combination of tones. It takes little thought to mix, say, dark charcoal or slate with the paler shades of dove, smoke and pearl, which is definitely not the case when dealing with red, blue, green or any other stronger hue, with the possible exception of black or white. It is the air of tranquility which grey offers that makes it one of the most versatile and useful colours to introduce into your wardrobe, added to which it *always* looks right, whether cut into a smart, tailored suit, or a more sportive, relaxed look. The foolproof way grey colours flannel, cashmere, silky satins and chiffons, or even, this season, fleecy sweatshirting,

ensures its status. No matter what, grey works.

Its revalued reappearance has been given an elegant kick-start by the directional designers. Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel does a sideways take on the dull battledress of the boardroom. His suits are sculpted affairs without a hint of Wall Street. The silhouette is longer and leaner, the effect softened still further by the addition of a diaphanous grey chiffon blouse with a plunge neckline. This juxtaposition of hard and soft, masculine and ultra-feminine, is what makes the new look news, and a far cry from the tough looking two-pieces favoured by the 1980s power dressing Superwoman.

Donna Karan opts for sleek looking pin-stripes, once again teamed with chiffon, this time in the form of billowing scarves knotted as huge neckties. Undoubtedly one of the de rigueur accessories of the season.

Another American, Isaac Mizrahi, New York's golden boy of Seventh Avenue, introduced sportswear-inspired grey sweatshirting into his collection, shaping it into uncomplicated floor-sweeping, hip-hugging skirts, topped with comfortable cardigan jackets or more upbeat sleeveless hooded gilets. An uncompromising nod to the great sportswear designer, Claire McCardell, and maybe even a passing glance at Coco Chanel, the first to introduce plain knit jersey as high fashion. English designers, too, are



Matthew Parris

Why do schools persist in teaching foreign languages to children who never learn them?

Did you learn reading and writing at school? Can you read and write? Did you learn arithmetic at school? Can you do simple sums? Did you learn French or German at school? Can you speak French or German? Or let's be more precise: are you fluent in a second language?

Are you able, then, at least to get by in a foreign language, where no English is spoken? No?

Dear me. Are you able, perhaps, to put together simple sentences in your second language?

Hm. Still no joy? Well, try this: can you remember a few basic words — just words, not strung together into any sort of a sentence — in a foreign language? You can remember a few words you say? Congratulations, and welcome to the category occupied by the majority of your countrymen! The government is spending nearly three-quarters of a billion pounds a year getting students up to your sort of level. Fifty-one per cent of Britons, according to the Mason/Parris test, admit that after all their years of learning a foreign language at school, no more than a few basic words have stuck.

I should explain the Mason/Parris test. It was devised by a research assistant and me, and applied to randomly selected British-educated interviewees on the London Underground (Central line) and Docklands Light Railway during a weekday in August. In all we interviewed 100 passengers: an imperfect survey, but point me to any better research into the efficacy of language teaching in British schools and I'll happily substitute it for my own.

And don't bother ringing the Department of Education. The department has no general measure of the success of language teaching. It is now part of the core curriculum, but the miscellany of courses or (as they obscurely put it) "modules", and the alleged difficulty of testing oral proficiency, means that if you ask the government how much of a second language schoolchildren are actually learning to speak, the answer will be a bureaucratic circumlocution for "we haven't the least idea". Hell — what, between friends, is three-quarters of a billion pounds and hundreds of millions of miserable, wasted hours of three million schoolchildren's time for five wretched years of their lives?

Incidentally, that three-quarters of a billion pounds is also a Mason/Parris estimate. The department "cannot estimate" the cost of language teaching. It does know that in 1988 there were about 33,100 language teachers. It doesn't know how many there are now, or where they are, or what they're doing, or for how many hours a week, or why, or with what success. It says that in 1988 about two-thirds of those teachers were teaching French. That this language is of diminishing use these days outside France need not concern us: the question does not arise, as almost nobody actually succeeds in learning to speak it.

That, at least, on the basis of our Tube survey, is the preliminary conclusion. Our hundred passengers were asked whether, in the language they learnt at school, they were (a) fluent, (b) able to make themselves understood or "get by", (c) able at least to handle a simple sentence, or (d) able to remember only some basic words. Of our 100 interviewees, 51 could remember only a few words, 27 thought they might handle a simple sentence; 18 could make themselves understood in company where no English was spoken; and 4 considered themselves fluent. Of these last, one lived in France, one was a translator, one with the forces in Germany and one had to speak French for her job.

You may agree that an ability at least to make oneself understood, however haltingly, represents a sort of minimum proficiency. On this reckoning we are scoring a 22 per cent success rate. For more than three-quarters of the nation, the attempt to learn a language at school has ended in failure. Compare that failure rate of 78 per cent to the failure to reach minimum proficiency in arithmetic or English, which must be about 2 per cent. And I personally suspect that my survey is optimistic.

Is there any other subject so comprehensively taught at which anything like so overwhelming a proportion fail, and fail so completely? What is it about the world of education which stops people asking questions such as: "Is there any point in doing this at all?" Is it the fear that the question might prove too widely apt?

A language like parachuting, deep-sea diving or learning to ride a bike, is best gone at hard and with a will. It is entirely unsuited to the intermittent, attenuated, low-intensity, low-concentration routine of classroom teaching. We are wasting our money and three million children's time. I honestly believe that if there were no language teaching at all in our schools, as many Britons would have gained a useful grasp of a second language as have today.

For as everyone knows, by far the best way to learn a new language, apart from immersion in the culture, is through an intensive foreign language course. Even here, as teachers in these courses will tell you, unless the student (backed up by the parent) genuinely wants to learn, the effort is wasted. So why do we bother with school French? What are we trying to achieve? Why does the Department of Education not care that we are failing? Does anybody even ask these questions?

Most British schoolchildren believe, perhaps correctly, that in the lives they expect to lead they will never really need a second language. They proceed to the not unnatural conclusion that they will not bother trying to learn one. A minority, however, can be persuaded that a second language is worth acquiring, or fun to learn. The first group should be released: they are only holding the others back and wasting time and money. The second group should be taken seriously and given the time, resources and teachers they need. The present ludicrous little-bit-for-everybody-but-not-much, sort-of-compulsory, half-cock British educational ritual fails both groups, fails them equally, and fails them dismally. Why do we go on with it?

Talk of a political consensus on active government may be premature, writes Peter Riddell

Which way for growth?

The present political turmoil is about much more than John Major's leadership, pit closures or even the Maastricht bill. The underlying battle is about the shape of post-Thatcherite politics and policies. We are still struggling to escape from the preoccupations and mistakes of the 1980s; economically from the results of build-up of debt of that period, and intellectually from an era when almost all government intervention was regarded as bad. In view of the difficulties thrown up by privatisation, deregulation and cutbacks in the public sector, we still have to define a new role for the state.

A parallel debate is under way in America, where much of Bill Clinton's appeal is that he is offering a new agenda, which, however flawed, is seen to be responding to the excesses and failures of the Reagan/Bush era. The link is the talk about active government, strategies for growth and investment in public infrastructure. But does this mean a return to a 1990s version of the alleged Bush/Clinton consensus of the 1950s —

embracing two-thirds of the Tory and Labour frontbenches plus the Liberal Democrats?

Even after the traumas of the past month, it is possible to identify some common ground. The shared agenda of the frontbenches would include a belief in an active British role in Europe, a managed exchange rate (code for eventual re-entry into the exchange-rate mechanism), greater attention to reform of public services, such as education and health, and greater investment in capital projects. The great majority of the Commons, probably two-thirds to three-quarters, are, for example, pro-EC. This incidentally underlines what a self-destructive course — the Tory Eurosceptics are on, since the only likely alternatives to Mr Major are either Tories such as Kenneth Clarke, Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine, who are even stronger supporters of the

EC than the present prime minister, or the even more pro-EC John Smith.

However, talk of a new consensus looks thin when you move beyond general aspirations. There are wide differences between the parties over means over, for instance, the social chapter, the way education, health and public services should be run. On the economy also the parties are still some way apart, even if the departure from the ERM has put a smoke-screen over their exact positions.

It is far from clear what the "strategy for growth" is all about. Unusually, it was signalled first by the prime minister. We have yet to hear the Chancellor's version. Mr Major decided a week ago that he could not go on talking about

the priority of fighting inflation and had to find some new language to regain the political initiative. As one senior minister put it, "to show that he is not fiddling over Maastricht while Rome burns". Hence the new references to growth and the expansionary impact of the withdrawal from the ERM and lower interest rates. The Treasury is now busily trying to catch up with what this might mean before the Autumn Statement on November 12. Ministers with capital programmes and merchant bankers are devising schemes for private investment in public sector projects. But so far there is confusion.

However big the loophole on capital projects, I doubt whether the Autumn Statement will be greeted as a dash for growth, or seen to mark a new consensus. There is still a big contrast between the Tories and Labour on how to help industry. Minis-

ters want to hold public spending to the existing target for next year in spite of the extra expenditure caused by the recession. This is tighter than last year. A squeeze in some social security benefits and training programmes and a virtual freeze on public sector pay hardly looks a big commitment to expansion — though it will no doubt be softened by a further cut in interest rates.

Gordon Brown has so far been cautious about clarifying Labour's detailed alternative. But the implication of his speech on Friday is that Labour would not seek to offset the increase in spending caused by the recession and would spend more on an emergency recovery programme of employment and investment. So Labour would be explicitly Keynesian.

Both the Labour leadership and Democrats such as Mr Clinton believe that the public is

willing to accept higher spending and borrowing in the short term if it helps boost consumer and business confidence and cuts unemployment. That begs longer-term questions about the big structural budget deficits in both countries. One of Ross Perot's most telling points is that both Mr Clinton and Mr Bush rely solely on growth to reduce the deficit and are unwilling to face up to the possibility of higher taxes and spending cuts. That is also true in Britain, where neither party has a convincing policy for reducing public sector borrowing. The Tories hope that tough action on spending and growth will in time cut the deficit, while Labour has not yet addressed the issue of whether voters will pay higher taxes to support improved public services.

Talk about a new consensus for active government is therefore premature. Public resistance to higher taxes has not been reversed. Instead, there is a demand that something be done about the recession, that the government has a responsibility for starting recovery.

The tragicomedy of Petra Kelly

Bernard Levin wonders at the passion and energy squandered on a life of political absurdity

As I write, it is not clear whether the deaths of Petra Kelly and Gert Bastian constituted a murder followed by a suicide, or a mutual suicide pact. (Third person murder, it seems, has been ruled out.) Whatever happened, and why, it is sad far more than one reason, and it is the more than one reason that I wish to discuss today.

I turn first to the extensive obituary in this newspaper.

She was brought up in the American civil rights movement... she took a degree in political science, worked for two years in Hubert Humphrey's office and joined political demonstrations — notably against the Vietnam war... Later she worked in Brussels in the EEC Commission. Kelly was attracted into the West German Social Democrat party by Willy Brandt's idealism, but later left in disgust at the hard pragmatism of his successors... she went on to work in Berlin, the NATO HQ, Frankfurt Airport... "We are the anti-party party," said Kelly... she was not convinced of the value of parliamentary action... she became a media idol, being featured on the covers of both Stern and Der Spiegel. This angered many other leading Greens... she was once deported from East Berlin for trying to demonstrate there against the nuclear arms policies of West and East. In a party deeply split... Kelly stood in the middle... She campaigned incessantly for Turkish workers, homosexuals and other minorities, for feminist causes, and against pollution and nuclear energy... She spoke very fast, non-stop with a manic urgency.

I have to say, however tragic her end, that there is something appallingly comic in her life. Every one of the stages of her career, from working for Hubert Humphrey, the one man absolutely certain not to succeed in his bid for the presidency, to abandoning Willy Brandt's party because it had a chance of winning power, to her reluctance to get involved in parliamentary action in case it might get something done, to the incessant chanting of her immense list of mantras ("Nato out. Nato out. Nato out, to Turkish workers and homosexuals and pollution and

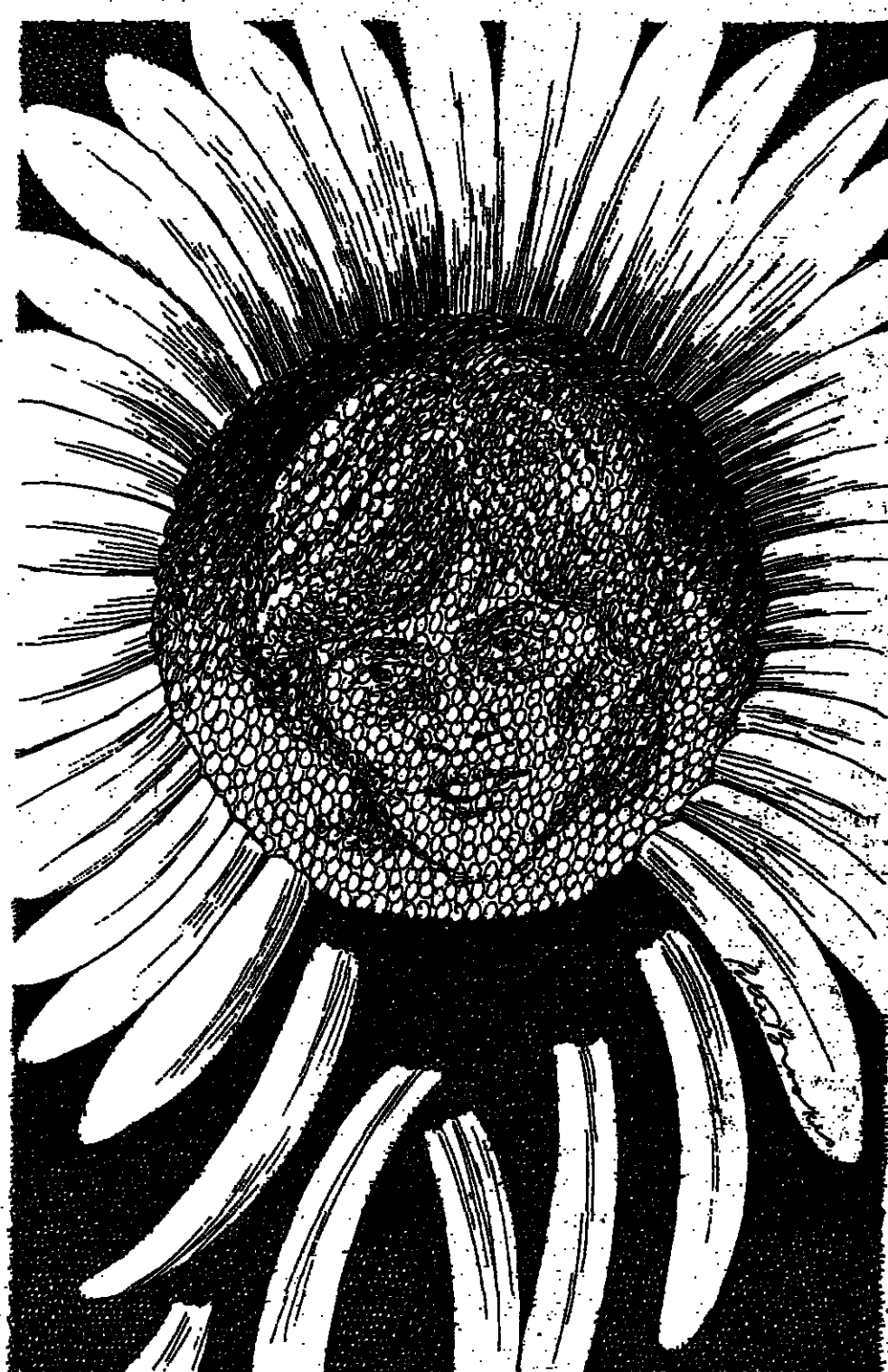
nuclear energy (imagine her joy if she found a Turkish homosexual who was against pollution and nuclear energy) — every one of the stages of her life via *dolorosa* marked yet another lost cause, to say nothing of those causes which had been lost before she could get close enough to lose them. *De mortuis*, of course, but no one, certainly not I, would want to speak ill of her; it is the absurdity that leaps to the mind, until her curriculum vitae reads like some of the characters conjured up by Peter Simple — she combined the silliness of Gisèle de Frabazon with the earnest, bearded, grenade-draped Ken Flabb. Reality, it is clear, never even came close enough to touch her.

Which was a pity, because all that energy and passion was worthy of a better home. Only a few weeks ago I was commenting on the collapse of the British Green party — a feeble, scattered bunch compared with the intensity of their German counterparts even in decline. I touched upon some of the reasons that such bodies, however clamorously launched, always wither, crumble and eventually disappear. I omitted one other cause, perhaps the most important; it is the way that such bodies put about claims which have no substance and which indeed are manifestly bogus.

There was, very recently, just such a ridiculous episode: we were told that because of the nature and toxicity of the pollution we breathe, half the population will shortly be suffering respiratory problems. (No doubt there is at this moment a group working on a claim that the other half will shortly be following suit.)

True, the Greens and their like have a problem; to keep themselves in the public eye, they must bid high in the auction, by announcing that, say, raspberry jam will do 17 million people a year in Britain alone. But the more gross and unbelievable are the claims, the less the public takes notice of them, and quite rightly.

When I am Imperial Censor of the Written Word, my first action will be to forbid anyone



to use *breakthrough* on pain of being sentenced to read the whole of Frost, backwards. What the *groupuscules* will do then, I do not know, but I doubt if it will be to shut up. Whatever the reasons for Petra Kelly's death, disillusion must surely have had a part in it, and probably a great part. It is bad enough to be compelled to slog on, year after year, towards a

goal that gets no nearer, watching the faithful, one by one, slip away (are there any members of Vanessa's Loomies left, apart from the lady and her brother, if left, it is much worse to have to fight incessantly against members of your own side).

That was the fate of the German Greens — who, it must be remembered, started the whole green movement. But so

fanatically, implacably, unwaveringly determined to be defeated were the rank and file, that when Petra Kelly became known not only in Germany but in many other countries, her party in the Bundestag (where it had 28 seats), voted her off the executive of the party and off the parliamentary front bench, and even tried to get her thrown out of parliament itself. (Shortly

after that episode, the Greens lost all their Bundestag MPs, and have never got any more.) And the tragedy is that she herself was steeped in the culture of defeat, that defeat which is invited because of the danger of victory. For in victory, compromises must be made, alliances must be forged, retreats must be considered — in other words, reality must be called in. In the end, these people, for all their fantasy and beliefs and pamphlets on recycled paper, are only playing a game, and a childish one at that. What could she think to live for?

Not the hole in the ozone layer, even if there is one, nor global warming, particularly since these aren't any and it would be beneficial if there were no nuclear disarmament.

She was steeped in the culture of defeat, that defeat which is invited because of the danger of victory. For then compromises must be made.

which no one can get indignant about now, nor the heady feeling of being thrown out of East Berlin, because there is no such thing any more. All that remains is Turkish workers and homosexuals, and no one could make a life out of those.

But what a waste! It is summed up, perhaps, in an item in the obituary which puzzles me. She loved sit-ins, evidently, and one can see why, when the target was, say, NATO headquarters. But the list includes Frankfurt Airport, and for the life of me I cannot understand what Frankfurt Airport had done to deserve a sit-in. Perhaps she did not know herself; living so hectic a life, dashing from sit-in to sit-in, it would have been easy to get the schedule confused, and find herself sitting-in on a harmless supermarket where was intended. May she rest in peace; it would be for the first time.

Fowler and brimstone

JOHN PATTEN, stung by a confidential Conservative Central Office report branding him a vote-loser in university towns, has demanded an explanation from Sir Norman Fowler. The report said Patten's sub-thumping image did not go down well in "highly sophisticated and culturally liberal seats".

To make matters worse the document, written by Guy Rowlands at the Central Office research department, pinpointed six seats allegedly made vulnerable by Patten's style, and they included the education secretary's own, Oxford West and Abingdon.

Patten has written to Fowler, the party chairman, seeking an apology after the document was leaked to his local newspaper. The report claims Patten employs "too much fire and brimstone and ill-defined attacks against educational experts". It further states that there are not enough attempts to raise morale in the profession and this could threaten "education seats".

Central Office says that the matter has been straightened out with Patten. We have disowned the report. Five

copies were issued in the research department, and then it was leaked. We did not commission Guy Rowlands to write it. He has now resigned."

Patten has worsened relations between Fowler and Andrew Lansley, director of the research department. Lansley is in even more hot water for remaining in Germany with ministerial advisers last week rather than heeding Fowler's advice to return to brief MPs and help defuse the pit-closure rebellion.

Making her marks

WITH her husband in the headlines in recent weeks, for all the wrong reasons, Christina von Richthofen is about to make some news of her own. One can recall that Hermann von Richthofen, the German ambassador, is said to have leaked the Bundesbank's reply to Treasury criticism of its ERM role.

Now Christina has produced a coffee-table book, *Germany*, which extols the virtues of a united country. Weidenfeld & Nicolson has saved readers the trouble of seeking out any contentious material. Publicity merely states: "This timely publication is a visual portrait of a united Germany that makes no mention of the Bundesbank."



DIARY

One of the first tasks undertaken at the weekend by David Montgomery, the new Mirror Group chief executive, was a surprise visit to Glasgow to inspect the company's Scottish papers. Almost immediately on arrival he was seen entering the office of Jim Cassidy, editor of The Sunday Mail. Ten minutes later an astonished newsroom heard that Cassidy had been sacked. The ensuing uproar only subsided when the journalists realised the Cassidy involved was not Jim, but Terry, chief executive of Celtic football club. A relieved Jim Cassidy said: "I heard the uproar — but I'm glad to say my job is safe... for the moment."

City limits

THERE is a small corner of Arizona that is for ever London — and a rare old light, reminiscent of the Wild West, has ensued.

The City Corporation of London, has found itself dragged into an undignified scrap over a dilapidated bar on the edge of the Mojave desert.

In 1973, when Robert McCulloch bought the old London Bridge and had it rebuilt in Lake Havasu City, he gave the City of London one acre of land — including the pub — as a token of his thanks. Now Brad Goldman, chief appraiser for Mojave County, is demanding \$130,000 in unpaid back tax from the City of London.

Andrew Colvin, legal counsel for the City, says the tax is due from the last tenant. "It was vacated last year by a tenant who made a speedy departure with all the fixtures and fittings. The pub is now in a state of disrepair and we are in court in Arizona to get him to meet his obligations under the lease."

The former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Christopher Col-

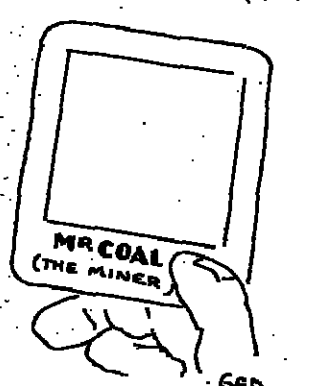
lett, has just returned from Arizona. "We have been left with a problem," he admits. "The last tenants did not pay the rent. The roof is leaking and it is a shambles."

The pub's landlord, Tom Flaxley, takes a different view. "We paid the rent and we are one hundred per cent current. I tried calling the Brits numerous times to tell them their building was falling apart and in need of repair but they would not part with a nickel." Meanwhile the pub stays shut and Arizona connoisseurs of British beer continue to go thirsty.

Family panning

ALTHOUGH Happy Families, one of the cherished card games of yesteryear, is being re-launched by Waddingtons for Christmas in modern guise, the publicists have strangely failed to play up the identities of two of the new families. While Mr Bun the Baker and Mr Grits the Grocer, masterpieces of 19th-century popular art, are being replaced by such icons of the 1990s as Mrs Fax the Account Executive, Rev Seemly the Vicar, the Greens, the Snaps et al, it is the Polls and the Greeds which may bring most joy. The Poll family, inventions of the cartoonist Trog and political

columnist Simon Hoggart, consists of Mr Poll (Sir Edward Heath), Mrs Poll (Baroness Thatcher), Miss Poll (Edwina Currie) and Master Poll (John



Major). Better still, the Greeds are made up of Captain Bob, Betty, Kevin and Ghislaine Maxwell.

Correspondence in The Field insisting that good huntsmen eat everything they shoot reaches new heights in the November issue. "The central Indian sloth bear is not to be recommended," writes M.W. Lowndes. "We had nothing else for Christmas dinner one year; it stank before it even reached the table. I managed a bite just to say I had eaten it."



POWERLESS PLAY

The prime minister's election threatens harm his own case

This is no time for John Major to be making bravura gestures. He could have been strengthening his position by taking a clear lead on the economy and by quietly marshalling his parliamentary forces for the next difficult decisions the government has to take. Instead, over the weekend, he was suggesting that if Parliament failed to ratify the Maastricht treaty, he would call a general election. He seemed virtually to be challenging his opponents to call his bluff — at a time when he has neither a hand nor a sleeve full of aces.

What are Mr Major's high cards? The most valuable is the belief that any possible successor to him is likely to be more pro-European than he is. Yet so passionate is the prime minister's attachment to the Maastricht treaty that he is putting even this proposition, in practice, to a severe test.

Mr Major must be assuming too that those Eurosceptics who might otherwise have voted against the Maastricht bill would come into line when faced with the threat of a general election. It is, however, an empty threat. No Conservative leader would be allowed by his party to surrender the government to Labour within months of winning a majority at a general election.

Even if Mr Major got to Buckingham Palace before the men in grey suits got to him, the Queen's private secretary would be forewarned that the prime minister did not have the backing of the party in asking for a dissolution. He would be replaced by someone who could muster a majority in the House, even if that majority had to be achieved at the expense of some fudging over Europe.

Moreover, by turning the Maastricht bill into a vote of confidence in the government, the prime minister is handing the issue on a

plate to Labour. At the moment the Opposition is divided on tactics. John Smith is reluctant to vote against Maastricht because he agrees with the treaty on principle. But once offered the chance to bring the government down, how could he fail to carry out the duties of opposition? He would at last be able to vote against the bill with a clear conscience.

Even if Mr Major's party did allow him to hold a general election, the result would not turn on the different parties' policies on Europe since they all support the ratification of Maastricht. People would end up voting on other issues, such as the government's economic competence. Whether or not Labour were finally to seize its chance of victory, the problem of Europe would remain unresolved.

The only effective way of taking the European question to the country is to hold a referendum. Short of that, the prime minister could still have saved face and avoided unnecessary battles. He could have said that he was not intending to 'stake anything on the paving debate on Maastricht, that it would merely be a temperature-taking exercise, designed to elicit what the House of Commons really thought.

With an anodyne enough motion, and either support or abstention from Labour, Mr Major would have won a clear majority which he could have cited to his European colleagues as evidence of Britain's good faith. Then he could have postponed ratification until economic recovery was under way and his backbenchers were less aggrieved.

Instead Mr Major seems to have decided to take on his enemies where he is most vulnerable. That is at best rash, at worst foolish.

CANADIAN CRACKS

Break-ups need not be as bad as before

Canada's uncertain future as a country is one of the most consistent elements in its character. Today Canadians are once again scrambling for a constitutional formula that will keep their fractious French-speaking minority within the national fold. After three bruising months of debate which have brought ancient divisions even closer to the surface than usual, Canadians will vote on whether to approve the Charlottetown Accord, a package of reforms aimed at curing the nation's long-running constitutional paralysis.

After two years of back-room political bartering, the Charlottetown Accord is an unwieldy, confusing document, a thing of threads and patches, offering concessions to most of the country's diverse interest groups, and satisfying none of them. Outside Quebec there is resentment that the province has been singled out for special treatment as a "distinct society"; for many Quebecois, their promised treatment is not special enough.

The provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec are all poised to reject the accord. Just one of these would probably be enough to kill it — an outcome that could either fragment the country along the lines of language, culture and region or plunge it back into another bout of wrangling.

The forces of separatism in Quebec will be greatly strengthened by a no vote. Jacques Parizeau, head of the nationalist Parti Quebecois, is already laying out a timetable for independence. The wealthy western provinces, already disenchanted with the eastern provinces and infuriated by Quebec's recalcitrance, might also break away, entering into closer economic and cultural

alliance with the north-western states of America and possibly taking with them Saskatchewan and Manitoba. That would leave Ontario, Canada's industrial heartland, to go it alone.

None of this will happen overnight. But with the country already weary and bored by the protracted negotiations, an emphatic no vote would galvanise the forces of separatism and critically weaken the central government.

Does this matter? Probably not much, at least to the rest of the world. The security implications of a divided member of Nato are less serious than they would have been before communism fell.

The future of the North American Free Trade Agreement would clearly come into doubt. The International Trade Commission has already stated that an independent Quebec could not count on an automatic extension of free trade within the United States. Meanwhile Canada's Royal Bank has published a survey concluding that a fragmented Canada would be pushed deeper into recession, while an independent Quebec would see the emigration of "one million of the brightest and best" English-speaking citizens.

Divorce would not be easy. The emergence of new states would demand cool diplomacy and understanding, especially by the United States. Canadians may later find they prefer some loose association. But whatever the outcome, Canada has the tolerance, wealth and democratic tradition to face up to changes that in most countries would herald only strife and bloodshed. After the end of the Cold war, some peoples at least can be given more choice about how they want to live.

THE END OF THE WORLD

Spineless contemplation is the best policy

August 14, 2116, will be a bad day to be in the office. The Big Bang will seem but a whimper, the stock market crash a mere ripple on the nation's affairs compared with the explosion that will occur when a comet slams into the Earth with all the force of over one million atomic bombs going off at the same time. Swift-Tuttle, as this far from heavenly body is called, is already hurtling towards this planet at astronomical speed. The impact of the five-mile wide agglomeration of ice, rock and other celestial debris will blast an enormous crater, darken the sky with dust, and cause fires and tidal waves engulfing most of the world. It will be a bad day at the beach as well.

Scientists seem annoyingly vague about an event that they promise will bring life to a sudden full stop. They cannot tell whether it will occur in the morning or the afternoon, nor where the greatest area of risk will be. Will the comet wipe out Bulgaria, Sudan or the republic of Scotland? Will it further hit property prices in the south-east — which, no doubt, will still be depressed? Will the dust cause global warming, with the gases from the fires adding to the greenhouse effect, or will it bring on a new ice age by blotting out the sun? Maybe it will cause both simultaneously, thus neutralising the effects, rather like turning on the air conditioning and the central heating at the same time.

Perhaps the scientists should make their sums public. No hurry, of course: there is time to check the equations in the next century and a half. But by altering a decimal point or two, they could contrive to have it miss the world by at least a comfortable mile.

and save several billion sleepless nights. Better still, they should publish a plan now on what to do in case they are right.

A national effort to dig deep caves would seem the obvious thing. Mao Tse-tung, with extraordinary prescience, got all China to dig tunnels just on the strength of his little red book, so at least there will still be some underground Chinese restaurants left after Armageddon. Pot-holing will become a favourite sport, and speleology a more popular science. All that childhood enthusiasm for dinosaurs will be put to good use; they were arguably the victims of a similar mishap, and their fate could be a useful lesson to us all.

The scientists will be under some popular pressure to devise a way of avoiding the collision. This means either moving the earth or stopping the comet. The former is rather risky: detonating a massive explosion to alter the earth's orbit could lead to exactly the same problems as the predicted collision, and in any case spinning off into an unpredictable path around the sun would make it difficult to calculate the dates on which Easter falls.

Blasting the comet out of the sky would be cheaper: star wars research would take on a new lease of life. There is talk even of landing a power unit on the incoming body so that it could fire it off into a different direction — but this sounds rather tricky at such speeds. Placid contemplation of the world's fate seems somewhat spineless. But this has always been the method of dealing with Armageddon and cometary cataclysms in the past. And so far it has always worked.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Pay, taxes and investment as elements in the economy's road to recovery

From Mr John Grieve Smith

Sir, Your call for an expansionary economic policy ("A blueprint for Britain's future", October 22) is welcome, but it is confusing and illogical to say at the same time that the budget deficit should be reduced. The depth of a recession is not the time to cut public expenditure (or raise taxes) and so reduce demand even further.

The argument for low public-sector pay increases is not to reduce public expenditure but to help avoid a renewal of inflation when activity does begin to recover. But this calls for moderation in the private as well as the public sector.

The CBI and TUC could make a major contribution to recovery by getting together now to hammer out an agreement on pay bargaining. This would avoid a renewal of the wage-price spiral which has proved so persistent in the past. It would be much easier to take such an initiative while wage demands in the private sector are relatively low, rather than wait until recovery gets under way.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIEVE SMITH,
Senior Bursar,
Robinson College, Cambridge,
October 22.

From Mr Peter Hart

Sir, Bardays has told one of my clients that he will have to pay 3½ per cent above the base rate for future borrowings, as opposed to the 2 per cent which he and I negotiated a year or so ago.

The reason given is that the bank cannot make a profit on a differential of only 2 per cent. The recent 2 per cent reductions in base rates have therefore benefited my client by only ½ per cent.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. HART
(Accountant),
Wealden Barn, Bethersden Road,
Smarden, Kent,
October 23.

From Mr Simon Hetherington

Sir, Your guide to economic recovery contains some sensible advice to the government, but I cannot agree with the suggestion that mortgage interest tax relief be abolished from November, 1993.

The removal in 1988 of double tax relief for unmarried joint owners created a rush for property which boosted prices. Increased interest rates and rising unemployment have led to many thousands of repossessions and the present decline in values has caused the "negative equity" which now abounds.

Businesses associated with the

construction and conveyance of property have emerged and sunk as a direct result of the 1988 measure. It would surely be dangerous to apply the kind of stimulus which has been shown to do more harm than good. If the tax relief must be abolished — and I do not believe that it should — let it be with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. HETHERINGTON,
42 Goodwin Gardens,
Croydon, Surrey,
October 22.

From Sir James Cleminson

Sir, All are agreed of the need to get the economy moving forward again but few seem to appreciate that a Gant agreement (leading article, October 23) is vital to it.

France must not be allowed to stand in the way. Europe needs to act before the American presidential election.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CLEMINSON
(Chairman, British Overseas
Trade Board, 1986-90),
Loddon Hall, Hales, Norfolk,
October 23.

From Mr N. Rattee

Sir, To pay for the measures suggested in your blueprint it would be a lot fairer to freeze tax allowances for a year than child benefit or pensions. Most young mothers and pensioners have had far lower income increases during the 1980s than the working population as a whole.

If more money still is needed to implement the measures effectively, the raising of income tax to 50 per cent on all incomes above, say, £50,000 a year should be considered. These are the people who have done best during the Thatcher years from the Lawson tax cuts.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL RATTEE,
2 Grove Avenue,
Little Walsingham, Sudbury, Suffolk,
October 22.

From Sir William Barlow, FEng,
President of The Royal Academy
of Engineering

Sir, I welcome the prime minister's decision to "create a strategy for growth" and to ease Treasury rules on the funding of large public-sector projects (report, October 21). One way in which this commitment could be demonstrated is by making a positive announcement on the future of the Jubilee line extension for London Underground.

The full commencement of the project would give a much-needed boost to engineering manufacturing as well as the construction industry. The many thousands of jobs created

would not only be in London but nationwide.

Some £200 million has been spent or committed so far; other contracts for the line are ready to be signed. Cancelling or even further delaying the project risks a substantial waste of money.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BARLOW,
President,
The Royal Academy of Engineering,
2 Little Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1,
October 21.

From the Director General of the
British Aggregate Construction
Materials Industries

Sir, The new approach to economic policy set out by the prime minister is very welcome to our industry. The state of the construction industry means that almost unlimited capacity exists not only to fulfil present programmes but to do more without any inflationary pressures.

It would be a crashing waste of resources and a source of yet more unemployment if any public construction programme were to be cut in any department in the present expenditure review. And such action would be directly contrary to the new policy.

There has to be a warning note about private finance for major infrastructure works: this should not only be new and additional money but should be for new and additional schemes. Any attempt to bring private finance into, for example, highways schemes already scheduled to start next year would cause disruption and delay and frustrate the aim to have public construction investment play — as it will — a major part in economic recovery.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PHILLIPSON,
Director General, British Aggregate
Construction Materials Industries,
156 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
October 23.

From Dr David Le Vay

Sir, Many people have sustained financial anxiety and loss, excessive mortgages and home repossessions, business failures and bankruptcies, increasing unemployment and worries about their children's future — all in aid of a government policy that we were assured was necessary to win through to happier times.

When, on Black Wednesday, it became apparent that this policy had failed, it was the plain duty of the prime minister to address the nation, explain what had happened and why, make the necessary apologies, and help us to see some sort of way ahead. The situation has been compounded by the brutal treatment of the miners.

The British warm to a leader who tells things as they are, admits error and shoulders responsibility. Such a leader they do not have. His latest defence of his new economic stance (report, October 21) still shows no tinge of remorse or real hope.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LE VAY,
6 Garstons, High Street,
Burwash, East Sussex,
October 21.

From Mr Harold Becker

Sir, You may well be correct in advocating dramatically lower interest rates in order to aid the economy, but what about the millions of retired people who eke out their existence with the interest from savings invested in building societies or similar institutions? Surely, the time has come for such interest to be exempt from taxation.

Yours faithfully,
H. K. BECKER,
41 Meadows, Cambridge Park,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr B. Russell-Jones

Sir, Missing from your measures to stimulate the economy is any suggestion that VAT rates should be reduced forthwith — and boldly. This would surely act as a stimulus; it would be counter-inflationary for a worthwhile period; and over a year or so the revenue from VAT — even given quite a large reduction in rates — would probably be much the same as it is in the present state of the economy. Rates could be readjusted as may be necessary as the economy recovers.

Yours faithfully,
B. RUSSELL-JONES,
Barncroft, Long Compton,
Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire,
October 22.

From Mr C. I. Cowan

Sir, Peter Segal, director of a computer recruitment company, who joined the miners' march on Wednesday, raised an interesting moral question when he said, in relation to the miners, that he was ashamed he is "doing quite well" (report, October 22).

Some two years ago I acquired the assets of a bankrupt computer business, and, thanks to the exceptional efforts of my staff, it has fully recovered and is expanding, despite the difficult economic conditions.

Amongst the emotions I may feel about our apparent success, shame is not included.

Yours truly,
CLAUDE COWAN,
Managing Director,
AppleCentre Cambridge,
5 Clifton Court, Cambridge.

Forms of address

From Mr R. H. T. Hingston

Sir, I am sure your readers were relieved to hear from Mr Hugh Kemp (letter, October 12) that he had survived a stay in intensive care regardless of the manner in which he was addressed by staff there. I survived a similar experience.

The staff — diligent, kind and competent — called me by the first of my forenames, which I have never used. Thus the enquiry, "Are you alright, Richard?" elicited no response from me and led to all manner of modern medical devices being deployed for my benefit.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. T. HINGSTON,
Chase Farm, Fernhurst,
Nr Haslemere, Surrey,
October 12.

From Mr Hugh Gibson

Sir, In business circles, immediate use of one's Christian name is now commonplace, both in writing and on the telephone; often, in my experience, by people I have never met. "Please call me Mr" seems to give them as much offence as their unauthorised use of my Christian name causes me.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH GIBSON,
42 Lauderdale Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
October 12.

Harder to remember

From Mrs Marjorie Smith

Sir, I wonder if I am eligible to join the Craft (Can't Remember a Flipping Thing) Club (letter, October 22), as I recently forgot my first dental appointment and turned up a week too early for the second one.

Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE SMITH,
Aysgarth, 23 Mount Road,
Higher Bebington,
Wirral, Merseyside.

From Admiral Sir William O'Brien

Sir, A founder member of Ian Robertson's Craft Club must be the American lady, invited to a function on board my ship in Saigon in 1958, who arrived an hour early, apologised for being late and left before the party started.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. O'BRIEN,
The Black Barn,
46 High Street, Steeple Ashton,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire,
October 23.

EC plans 'a threat' to art market

From the Chairman of the Society of
London Art Dealers and others

Sir, Britain's position as a major international art centre is under threat from proposals now being considered in Brussels. London is rivalled only by New York as a market for works of art, a position which will change if current proposals concerning value-added tax and exports are implemented.

The first threat comes from the plan to harmonise VAT which would impose tax on all works of art entering the European Community. At present such imports into Britain are free of VAT and this is a major factor in the leading position of the London art market. Imports of fine art and antiques in 1991 exceeded £1.45 billion, of which more than half came from outside the EC. The effect of an import tax would be to divert this trade towards countries outside the Community.

Britain is the only member state of the EC which has a substantial art trade sustained by sellers of works of art from outside the EC and will therefore be uniquely affected by these measures. In recognition of this, the British government has stood alone against the proposed tax.

We are also concerned about proposals regarding the treatment of the work of living artists for VAT. We believe that special arrangements should be made so that first sales by artists should be free of VAT. If this cannot be the case, then in our view a concessionary rate is essential for this group, not least because concessions

are available in other EC states so that currently artists' work is more expensive here than in France or Germany for example.

In addition to the problem of VAT, the Commission's proposals to regulate the export of works of art and to provide restitution of illegally exported works of art will add an enormous administrative burden to the art market. Whilst we sympathise with measures taken by member states to prevent the illegal export of their national treasures, the present proposals are unnecessarily unwieldy and bureaucratic. The measures would also introduce uncertainty which would add further discouragement to owners of works of art from outside the Community from selling their property on the London art market.

Taken together, these proposals pose an unprecedented threat to an area of trade in which Britain has historically excelled.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID POSNETT,
Chairman,
Society of London Art
Dealers.

CARRINGTON
(Chairman, Christie's
International plc),
GOWRIE,
(Chairman, Sotheby's Europe),
A. F. SPINK
(President, British
Antique Dealers Association),
The Society of London Art Dealers,
91a Jermyn Street, SW1,
October 23.

From Dr A. F. Roberts

Sir, The solution to Mr Pengelly's problem (letter, October 14), is to invest in a riding mac. These are absolutely impervious to water.

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY ROBERTS,
5 London Road, Arundel, Sussex,
October 14.

From Mr F. Broadbent

Sir, Mr Pengelly may like to know that the British Standards Institution publishes standard BS 3546, "Coated fabrics for use in the manufacture of water penetration resistant clothing", which lays down the recommended tests and performance requirements of fabrics for use in rainwear.

This standard covers everything from polyurethane and silicone elastomer coated fabrics to PVC, natural and synthetic rubber coated fabrics and water vapour-permeable coated

fabrics. It requires a variety of rigorous tests which include water-penetration resistance, strength and colour fastness.

So when buying a raincoat, or any other waterproof clothing, customers should check that the fabric complies with BS 3546.

Yours sincerely,
F. BROADBENT
(Project manager),
British Standards Institution,
Linford Wood,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
October 23.

Business letters, page 38

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Concise Crossword, page 40

PARKER
DUOFOLD

**The solution of
Saturday's Prize
Puzzle No 19,058 will
appear next Saturday.
The 5 winners will
receive a Duofold
fountain pen supplied
by Parker**

Goodwill assured for 'Friendship Tour'

South Africa ready to welcome India with warm embrace

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN JOHANNESBURG

A MOMENTOUS visit for international diplomacy and cricket alike starts today, when India arrive here for the first Test match tour South Africa has hosted since 1969-70. For political and marketing purposes, it has been dubbed "The Friendship Tour" and has the backing of the African National Congress (ANC).

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, is giving the Indians a reception tomorrow and will attend the second Test here in late November. President de Klerk will watch a day-night international at Centurion Park, near Pretoria, on December 11.

India was the first country to withdraw its ambassador from South Africa in 1948, when apartheid was introduced, and it was the country which last year proposed South Africa's return to the International Cricket Council. Both governments felt it appropriate that India should now make this historic tour.

Doubts after the recent Bhopal and Bisho massacres eventually proved only a passing threat to the plan. India has not yet restored a full, diplomatic presence in Pretoria, and during the early part of the tour, the cricketers are being accompanied by a

representative of the Indian external affairs ministry. Normally based in Botswana, this political and racial "minder" will help with any problems. The players also had a lengthy ministerial briefing in Delhi before leaving. Such is the atmosphere here and the euphoria on all sides, however, that a tour free from incident and rancour is predicted.

Before the Indians get down to serious practice on Wednesday, they are to make a pilgrimage 20 miles outside Johannesburg to the site where Mahatma Gandhi organised a rural commune during his civil disobedience campaign against anti-Indian legislation before the first world war.

The Durban area has the largest Indian population in South Africa and this is why the first Test match on November 13 is being held at Kingsmead. The players are also visiting three black townships during their tour.

The South Africans know they cannot match the million-plus crowd which thronged Calcutta streets a year ago when they arrived to play three one-day games in India. They have arranged for young cricketers of all races to form a guard of honour at Jan Smuts airport today; an archway of bays under which the Indians will walk.

The Johannesburg transport department plans a cavalcade of cars and motorcycles to escort the team bus to the hotel. In the evening, the Indians will attend a United Cricket Board of South Africa banquet.

Third umpire will watch TV replay on Indian tour

THREE umpires and television replays will be called on to help with hairline decisions for the first time in Test matches and internationals during the Indian tour of South Africa (Richard Streeton writes).

An umpire wanting a TV replay to help him rule on run-out, stumping or his wicket dismissals will outline the shape of a square with his hands. The third, off-the-field umpire, will then study TV replays.

If he decides the batsman is out, he will switch on a green bulb. A red light will signify the batsman was not out. A third bulb will ignite yellow: this will mean a decision was impossible to gauge and the batsman will receive the benefit of the doubt.

The Indians want the three umpires to be rotated on a daily basis, rather than session by session as suggested by South Africa. Both methods will be tried during India's early games on the tour before a decision is made on the umpiring format for the first Test match at Durban on November 13.

The South Africans have made no attempt to tackle tampering in the tour's playing conditions. This will be left to the umpires, who will include David Shepherd (England) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies), as independents, and Clive Lloyd (West Indies) and Mike Smith (England), the ICC match referees.

The South Africans have also decided that national anthems will not be sung before Tests.

Motion of no confidence is put to MCC

THE MCC is being asked to call a special general meeting to discuss a motion of no confidence in the England selectors following the omission of David Gower and Jack Russell from the winter tour to India and Sri Lanka.

Dennis O'Brien, a member of MCC, has collected the 180 signatures necessary for the meeting to be called, and he hopes to meet Lt-Col John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, today.

Western Australia began their defence of the Sheffield Shield with a convincing 50-run win over Queensland on Saturday on the final day of their four-day match. Terry Alderman captured four for 55 as Queensland succumbed for 283 in their second innings after beginning the day on 69 for one.

The opener, Matthew Hayden, scored 63 and Allan Border struck 53 before falling to the youngster, Jo Angell. The Test wicketkeeper and Queensland captain, Ian Healy, followed his first innings of 49 with 39 before he fell leg-before to the player-coach, Alderman. After that, there was little resistance.

India put brakes on Zimbabwe batsmen

Harare: India warmed up for their historic visit to South Africa with a 30-run win over Zimbabwe in a one-day international here yesterday. After being bowled out for 239, India dismissed Zimbabwe for 209 with the first ball of the fifth over.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe opener, made 62, but the man of the match was Gary Crocker, who took four for 26 and scored 50 runs.

India, who had struggled to hold Zimbabwe to a draw in the home side's maiden Test match last week, leave for South Africa today to play four Tests and seven one-day internationals. It is the first official tour to the republic since it was readmitted to the International Cricket Council last year.

India overcame a reckless batting display after David Houghton, the Zimbabwe captain, made them bat in perfect conditions. Only Sanjay Manjrekar, who made a century in the Test, held firm, with a polished 70 from 75 balls.

Zimbabwe faltered with the bat after a cautious start by the Flower brothers, who put on 63 for the first wicket in 18 overs.

Craig Evans was held by Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, at square leg off the bowling of Anil Kumble to make Zimbabwe 123 for five. Andy Flower and Crocker added 58 for the sixth wicket, but an asking rate of over eight an over in the last ten overs proved too much.

The 34-year-old Ulsterman more than doubled his European tour earnings for the season with a closing round 67 which gave him a four-stroke victory over Mark McNulty.

Feherty, who began the final round two behind the Zimbabwean, collected the

£66,660 cheque with a 16-under-par total of 272. He said: "After such an awful season this is a fantastic feeling. I'm stunned. I can't believe I've won again, let alone by four."

The Ryder Cup player's last 17 months ago and the only headlines he made this season came when he was bitten by an adder while practising for the PGA championship at Wentworth in May and then smashed his Porsche into a wall when avoiding a dog in



End of the road: Nigel Mansell, of Britain, is forced to withdraw after 44 laps of the Japanese grand prix due to an engine fire

Japanese win gives Patrese day to remember

THE Japanese grand prix yesterday was an end-of-season triumph for the No. 2 drivers, Riccardo Patrese, the Italian, in a Williams-Renault, won by 14 seconds from Gerhard Berger, of McLaren-Honda, with Martin Brundle, in a Benetton-Ford, third.

Nigel Mansell, the British driver, sure of the world championship, led for 35 laps before letting Patrese, his team-mate, through.

"Nigel had said he would help me to take the second place in the championship," Patrese said, "but I didn't expect him to let me win. I was surprised because after I passed him he started pushing like hell again. I couldn't tell if he was fighting me or what. It was a big relief to see him fade from my mirrors; it's not pleasant to have Nigel

behind you like that." Mansell said: "As I was driving, I thought about the championship and even had a discussion with my race engineer about the standings. So coming out of the chicane I slowed for him to pass. Then I had a bit of fun following him, but it all ended when my engine blew."

When Patrese rolled into the end-of-race enclosure, Mansell unbuttoned his helmet, helped him out of the car and embraced him.

In letting both go (Mansell is moving to the Indy Car circuit in the United States; Patrese is joining Benetton), Frank Williams, the head of

the team, has lost a lot in terms of team spirit. Berger expressed his unhappiness at the performance of the Honda engine. His comments, coupled with Ayrton Senna's retirement on the third lap, represented a loss of face for Honda, which had made a great effort to modify their V12 engine for the home crowd.

Brundle was very happy. He had been bed-ridden for 24 hours with a stomach illness before getting up at 4am, unable to sleep or rest. Once more, the British driver showed great reserves of character and raced splendidly. He has scored points ten times in the last 11 races.

He started a long way back and steadily worked his way up. His much-fancied team-mate, Michael Schumacher, retired on the twelfth lap.

RESULTS: 63 laps, 193.137 miles, 1. R. Patrese (Williams, FW18C) 1:23:00.53; 2. G. Berger (McLaren, MP6/4) 1:23:14.92; 3. M. Brundle (Benetton, B194) 1:23:29.06; 4. A. Senna (Williams, FW18C) 1:23:43.15; 5. J. J. Lehto (Ligier, JS43) 1:23:57.24; 6. J. Agnelli (Ligier, JS43) 1:24:11.33; 7. J. Villeneuve (Williams, FW18C) 1:24:25.42; 8. J. Herbert (Williams, FW18C) 1:24:39.51; 9. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:24:53.60; 10. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:25:07.69; 11. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:25:21.78; 12. J. Damon Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:25:35.87; 13. J. Burtis (Williams, FW18C) 1:25:49.96; 14. J. Jones (Williams, FW18C) 1:26:04.05; 15. J. Ward (Williams, FW18C) 1:26:18.14; 16. J. Stewart (Williams, FW18C) 1:26:32.23; 17. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:26:46.32; 18. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:26:50.41; 19. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:27:04.50; 20. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:27:18.59; 21. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:27:32.68; 22. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:27:46.77; 23. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:28:00.86; 24. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:28:14.95; 25. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:28:29.04; 26. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:28:43.13; 27. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:28:57.22; 28. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:29:11.31; 29. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:29:25.40; 30. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:29:39.49; 31. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:29:53.58; 32. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:30:07.67; 33. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:30:21.76; 34. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:30:35.85; 35. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:30:49.94; 36. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:31:04.03; 37. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:31:18.12; 38. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:31:32.21; 39. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:31:46.30; 40. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:32:00.39; 41. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:32:14.48; 42. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:32:28.57; 43. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:32:42.66; 44. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:32:56.75; 45. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:33:10.84; 46. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:33:24.93; 47. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:33:39.02; 48. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:33:53.11; 49. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:34:07.20; 50. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:34:21.29; 51. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:34:35.38; 52. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:34:49.47; 53. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:35:03.56; 54. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:35:17.65; 55. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:35:31.74; 56. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:35:45.83; 57. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:35:59.92; 58. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:36:14.01; 59. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:36:28.10; 60. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:36:42.19; 61. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:36:56.28; 62. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:37:10.37; 63. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:37:24.46; 64. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:37:38.55; 65. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:37:52.64; 66. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:38:06.73; 67. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:38:20.82; 68. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:38:34.91; 69. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:38:48.99; 70. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:39:03.08; 71. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:39:17.17; 72. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:39:31.26; 73. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:39:45.35; 74. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:39:59.44; 75. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:40:13.53; 76. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:40:27.62; 77. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:40:41.71; 78. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:40:55.80; 79. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:41:09.89; 80. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:41:23.98; 81. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:41:38.07; 82. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:41:52.16; 83. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:42:06.25; 84. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:42:20.34; 85. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:42:34.43; 86. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:42:48.52; 87. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:43:02.61; 88. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:43:16.70; 89. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:43:30.79; 90. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:43:44.88; 91. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:43:58.97; 92. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:44:13.06; 93. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:44:27.15; 94. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:44:41.24; 95. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:44:55.33; 96. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:45:09.42; 97. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:45:23.51; 98. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:45:37.60; 99. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:45:51.69; 100. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:46:05.78; 101. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:46:19.87; 102. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:46:33.96; 103. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:46:48.05; 104. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:47:02.14; 105. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:47:16.23; 106. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:47:30.32; 107. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:47:44.41; 108. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:47:58.50; 109. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:48:12.59; 110. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:48:26.68; 111. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:48:40.77; 112. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:48:54.86; 113. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:49:08.95; 114. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:49:23.04; 115. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:49:37.13; 116. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:49:51.22; 117. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:50:05.31; 118. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:50:19.40; 119. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:50:33.49; 120. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:50:47.58; 121. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:51:01.67; 122. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:51:15.76; 123. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:51:29.85; 124. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:51:43.94; 125. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:51:58.03; 126. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:52:12.12; 127. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:52:26.21; 128. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:52:40.30; 129. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:52:54.39; 130. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:53:08.48; 131. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:53:22.57; 132. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:53:36.66; 133. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:53:50.75; 134. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:54:04.84; 135. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:54:18.93; 136. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:54:33.02; 137. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:54:47.11; 138. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:55:01.20; 139. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:55:15.29; 140. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:55:29.38; 141. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:55:43.47; 142. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:55:57.56; 143. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:56:11.65; 144. J. Montoya (Williams, FW18C) 1:56:25.74; 145. J. Coulthard (Williams, FW18C) 1:56:39.83; 146. J. Hill (Williams, FW18C) 1:56:53.92; 147. J. Barrichello (Williams, FW18C) 1:57:08.01; 148. J. 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David Miller compares Ewood Park's new generation with the illustrious predecessors they seek to emulate

Blackburn battling to revive a hit from the past

Whether the present-day Rovers football club is going to add anything fresh to the history of Blackburn, a flourishing market town of former Elizabethan days and then a focal point of eighteenth and nineteenth century iron and cotton industries, remains to be seen.

They conspicuously failed to do so in a goalless Premier League match against Manchester United on Saturday. It was not for want of trying, by either Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, or the players who have been bought by Kenny Dalglish. Dare one say they are not yet quite good enough? The taunts thrown at Alan Shearer, the £3.3 million centre forward from Southampton on whom both Blackburn and England place so much expectation, by United supporters was less than fair.

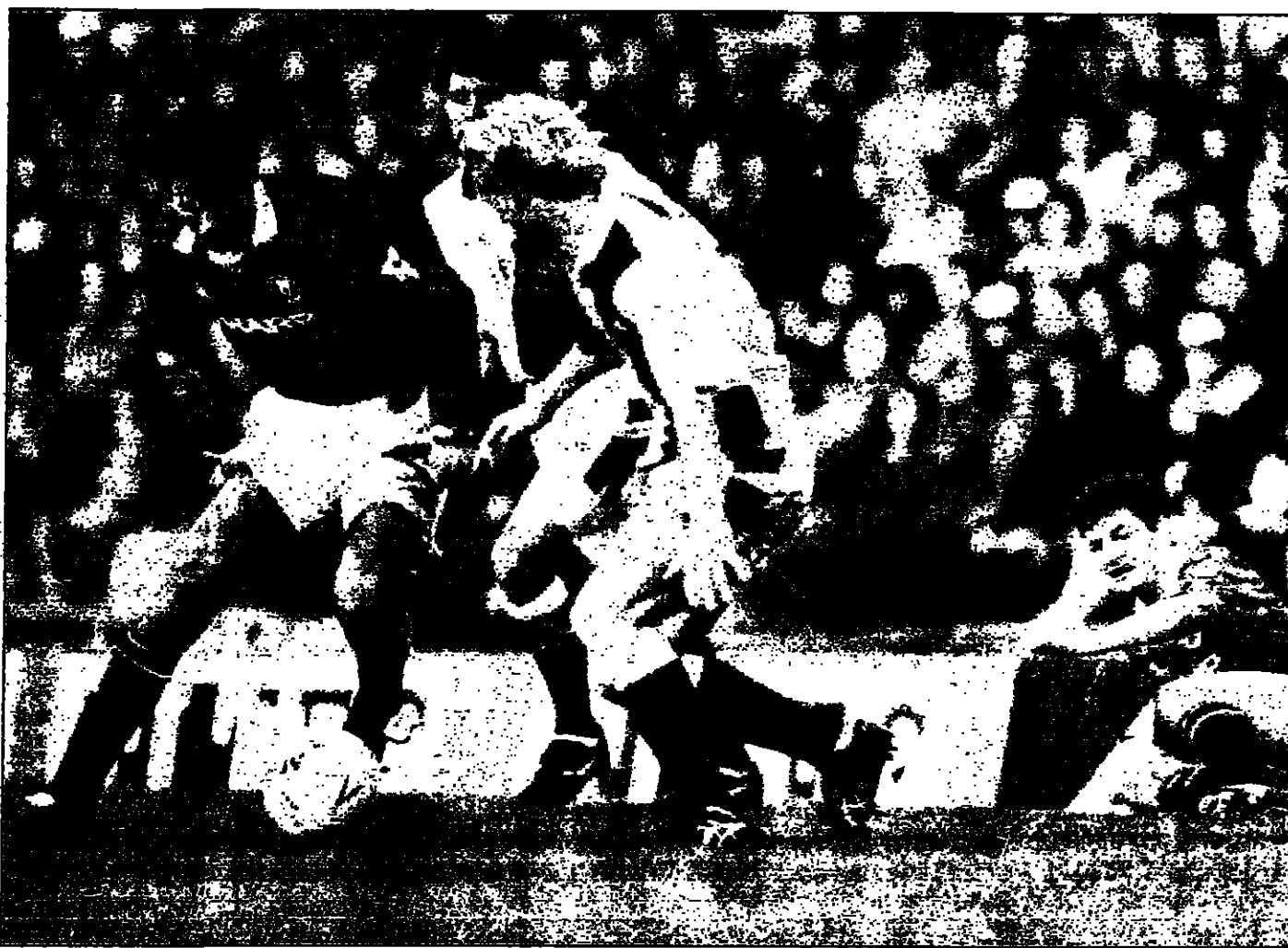
"You only want the money," they sang. I do not doubt that they would grab the money were they so lucky to have the chance, though their mood is a reflection of the gulf in identity that exists today between players and public.

That gulf is less stark when you arrive, say, at Old Trafford, where United's stadium has long had an aura of wealth and style, a sense of grand opera at which you expect to witness the performance of superstars who are appropriately rewarded financially.

Ewood Park is different. Blake's "dark satanic mills" are mostly, thankfully, long gone. One or two of those popular-like, forbidding red-brick chimneys are still visible from the £15 seats in this century-old stadium, where they once had 61,783 people for a cup-tie against Bolton in 1929. There was not a spare seat on Saturday.

The ironies hit you as you wind up from the bustling city centre to the little ground, smugly nestled beneath rolling Ribblesdale hills, hemmed in by terraced Victorian streets: definitive scene of Football League founders, home of one of the most famous of FA Cup-winning clubs. The corner shops and "caffs" have little changed from my early journalistic days, the elegant era of Clayton and Douglas on £18 a week, when Rovers reached their last final.

You can still have egg, sausage and chips at the Ewood Cafe for less than the price of a packet of cigarettes, a stone's throw from where Shearer, Ripley, and the rest are being paid thousands a week to search for new glory, though the local residents and shopkeepers do not seem resentful, perhaps grateful for a share of reflected prominence and an increase in casual



On the ball: Giggs, of Manchester United, seeks to break free from the Blackburn defence at Ewood Park on Saturday



Past master: Douglas, one of the great Lancashire wingers

trade during hard times. Nobody pauses to consider that you could build a technical training college for Blackburn's youth for the price of the present Rovers team.

It is a daunting pedigree that Shearer and Ripley are trying to emulate. For seven years, Clayton and Douglas, with 71 caps between them, spanning two World Cups of 1958 and 1962, were part of the nucleus of Walter Winterbottom's team: the craftsman in midfield and the magician on the wing. Clayton, so precise, replaced Wright when that player moved to centre half for England, then giving way to Bobby Robson before the World Cup in Chile, briefly having conceded his place to the more physical Clapp in Sweden four years earlier.

The diminutive Douglas was in the great tradition of Lancashire wingers, successor to the 41-year-old Matthews, who made his last appearance in a qualifying tie against Denmark, in 1957, dan-

cing to the dismay of many a full back when on the opposite flank to Finney. Together with Bobby Charlton in Chile, Douglas formed the last memorable England wing partnership in an era when beating defenders was a matter of dribbling round them rather than kicking over their heads. And how the public loved it.

When Blackburn reached Wembley in 1960, they might still have defeated Wolverhampton, even though the quirked Dougan did ask for a transfer the day of the final, and contributed little on the hallowed turf. But a moment after McGrath, approaching half-time, had sliced a centre by Stobart into his own net, the unfortunate Whelan broke his leg in a tackle on Deeley, who scored twice more in the 3-0 victory.

Also in that Blackburn side was one of the most gifted inside forwards of all, Peter Dobing, a young player of sublime dribbling skills and body swerve who was

never to fulfil his promise. Other stars to follow were Pickering, a willow centre forward who later moved to Everton, and scored five goals in three appearances in Alf Ramsey's formative sides; Mike England at centre half; and Keith Newton, who was to figure in that

Nobody pauses to consider you could build a college for the youth for the price of Blackburn's team

dramatic reverse against West Germany in 1970. The attention in 1992 may be on Shearer, yet young Alan Wright at left back is predicted to be another Newton in the making. He has a left foot as

sensitive as Ray Wilson's, but was most unhappy in the recent defeat by Norway Under-21 at Peterborough. He still has much to learn.

Can the Rovers of today, backed by Walker's fortune and Dalglish's management, restore the pride? They will need to do better than they did now, never mind the recent glut of goals against Norwich. Such football as there was on a frustrating afternoon preceded by rain and hail was largely played by United, though their inability to finish continues to stalk them.

You wonder sometimes whether Alex Ferguson, who has spent more than Dalglish in the attempt to create United's first Championship-winning team for 25 years, has too many players on call, and too many options, as well as too few goalscorers.

On Saturday, he was playing a 4-4-2 formation, with McClair drawn into midfield with Ince. Darren Ferguson and Blackmore, Giggs, for all his shining skills, is

not remotely a scoring winger in the realm of Best; while Hughes is the look of unpredictable striker who hits half a dozen memorable shots a season, but poaches few of the one-touch close-range goals that make a Liner. The failure to sign Shearer and injury to Dublin may see United finish empty handed again.

United's inter-passing, especially in the first half when the gentle Ferguson was at his most effective, was in marked contrast to Blackburn's aggressive running, which was usually halted by the robust marking — sometimes too robust — of Bruce, who was booked, and Pallister. It will largely be athletic power rather than subtlety that brings Shearer his goals.

He and Ripley are built more like rugby threequarters: robust, thick-thighed, and with knees and toes pointing at ten-to-three, their natural stance places their knees closer together than their feet, which is not the physical poise of

the touch player. Remember Finney and Matthews, or take a look at the slightly bowed legs of Giggs, or the low-slung shuffle of Cowans, who tried to link the Blackburn attack.

Newell, cutting inside on the half-hour, came closest to scoring for Blackburn when he dipped the top of the crossbar, though shortly afterwards, Giggs went close with a difficult half-volley on the turn from Irwin's neatly floated through-pass.

Midway through the second half, Shearer squandered his best chance, striking the ball straight at Schmeichel, who had advanced to the edge of the penalty area, when he might well have lobbed him. Ten minutes from the end, United had a flurry of four corners, with Blackburn glad to hack the ball anywhere, and thankful to survive. They will have been pleased to take a point when not playing well, but for United, the route to success remains uncomfortably uncertain.

YACHTING

British Steel sails proudly into Rio

By HARRY PICKTHALL

RICHARD Tudor and his British Steel II crew sailed into Rio de Janeiro at 13:43 GMT yesterday to win the first stage of the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race. They completed the 5,300-mile leg from the Solent three days ahead of schedule and more than 100 miles ahead of the their nearest rival, Interspray, skippered by Paul Jeffes, which was expected to finish early today.

Heath Insured, which had been running a close third throughout last week, had dropped back more than 240 miles over the weekend and Adrian Donovan and his crew are now expected to finish until later today.

As the champagne flowed, Tudor congratulated his crew. "It's an amazing achievement. It is exactly what we dreamt of for so long. I just find it hard to believe it has actually happened."

Claire McKernan, a 28-year-old section manager from Swansea, was equally ecstatic. "When I first enrolled on the challenge three years ago, I had never been sailing. Now I have raced over 5,300 miles against nine crews on identical boats — and won."

"Twenty-nine days ago, I was a confirmed sea-sickness-suffering land-lubber wanting to prove to myself that I could overcome my fear of boats. This is a pretty spectacular way of doing it."

Behind the leading trio, Mike Golding and his crew on Group 4 Securitas have a

battle to retain fourth place. Hofbrau Lager was just eight miles astern yesterday, and Pride of Teesside, skippered by Ian MacGillivray, and Nuclear Electric, skippered by John Chittenden, are level pegging a further seven miles astern.

Commercial Union, the last of the yachts within the ten-strong fleet which faced light winds early in the race and then became ensnared in the doldrums, finally crossed the Equator yesterday.

Still some 1,400 miles from Rio, her amateur crew had its spirits lifted with the fun and games of baptising those who had not crossed the line before.

"Neptune arrived to announce us all with some awful concoction the first mate knocked up in the galley," Sue Tight said, after washing the mixture out of her hair.

Given good winds for the remainder of the voyage, Will Sutcliffe and his crew can expect to reach Rio within a week. That would leave them two weeks to prepare for the restart on November 15, when the fleet sets out for Cape Horn en route to Hobart, Tasmania, the second stop-over in this 27,000 mile race.

Participants: 1, British Steel II (R Tudor), 29 days; 2, Hofbrau Lager (P Goss), 478 miles; 3, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 478 miles; 4, Interspray (P Jeffes), 50 miles; 5, Heath Insured (A Donovan), 242 miles; 6, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 471 miles; 7, Commercial Union (W Sutcliffe), 470 miles; 8, Pride of Teesside (I MacGillivray), 468 miles; 9, Rovers (K Newton), 467 miles; 10, Securitas (M Golding), 467 miles. (Results compiled by BT)

Warden Owen takes fifth

EDDIE Warden Owen, defeated for a semi-final place on Saturday by Roy Heiner, from Holland, yesterday took fifth place and \$4,750 in prize money at the Omega Gold Cup match-racing grand prix yesterday (Malcolm McKee writes). He beat George Dierckx, Ed Baird and Peter Bromby, of Bermuda, in the consolation sail-off.

Owen, whose British match-race sailing team is sponsored on the international circuit by Bank Cantrade of Switzerland, won this event last year but this time suffered cruelly at the hands of the patchy shifty winds of Hamilton harbour.

His fellow Britons, Stuart Childerley and Andrew Cape, went one step further through to the semi-finals, only to fall to the American skipper, Paul Cayard.

BASEBALL

Winfield steers Toronto to Series

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN ATLANTA

IT WAS ten to one yesterday morning when Joe Carter stepped on first base to thwart Orel Hershiser's desperate bid and take the World Series out of the United States for the first time in its 90-year history.

By beating the Atlanta Braves 4-3 in a see-sawing game which lasted 11 innings and more than four hours, the Toronto Blue Jays won the best-of-seven World Series by four matches to two and became champions only 15 years after the club had entered the major leagues.

There are no Canadians on the team's 25-man roster, which comprises 19 players from the United States, three from the Dominican Republic, two from Puerto Rico and one from Jamaica. That has not diminished Canadian enthusiasm: although the game was shown live on Canadian television, more than 45,000 watched it on a giant screen in Toronto's SkyDome.

What they saw was heart-stopping stuff. Twice Toronto took the lead only to lose it — the second time in the bottom of the ninth inning — before Dave Winfield, the oldest player on either team, steered them home in the second extra-inning.

In a 20-year career which had been long on financial reward but short on champ-

ionship rings, Winfield, 41, had only once before even played in a World Series — and then he lost. He joined the Blue Jays from the California Angels last December for a salary of \$2.3 million, which almost looks like a bargain after his contribution this season. He has made all the difference to a team which had a reputation for losing when it mattered.

Just such a loss seemed likely when Winfield came to the plate in the top of the eleventh. The scores were level and Toronto had two men on with two out. Winfield had not looked like getting a hit all night until he found himself facing another veteran, the relief pitcher, Charlie Leibrandt. "I know what he throws," Winfield said. "He gave me a pitch that I could whack."

The ball skidded down the left field line for a double. Winfield's first extra-base hit in 45 attempts in the World Series, and two runs scored.

This was a cruel blow to the Braves, who had recovered from being a run down with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to force the extra innings. They almost did it again in the bottom of the eleventh. Blauser scored on a sacrifice, and Smoltz, a pinch-runner, would have made it 4-4 had Nixon managed to beat the throw to first base after a bunt.

Team	W	L	Winning P	Runs	Hits	E
Toronto	100	100	2	4	14	1
Atlanta	91	100	1	3	8	1

Toronto win series 4-2

No sooner had Carter stepped on the bag than he and the winning pitcher, Jimmy Key, a Toronto stalwart, were engulfed by jubilant team mates. None celebrated harder than Winfield. "I am the oldest man in the room and I waited the longest for a championship but I am the happiest," he said. "I didn't do a whole lot but I did it at the right time."

Toronto had been in control for much of the game. They took the lead in the first inning, when Carter's sacrifice fly brought home Devon White. The Braves caught up in the third, when Sanders scored on a sacrifice by Pendleton. Toronto took the lead again immediately when Candy Maldonado hit a home run over centrefield, and for a while the war drums which drive the Atlanta fans' anthem, the Tomahawk Chop, were silent.

They thundered back to life in the bottom of the ninth, however, when Jeff Blauser singled and then was advanced round the bases by Berryhill. Smith and Pendleton for the equalising run. When he crossed the plate,

Atlanta still had two men on but they were unable to bring either home and the game went into extra innings and Winfield stepped up to make his mark.

The Toronto catcher, Pat Borders, was named the most valuable player of the series, not for his catching, which was deficient when it came to preventing stolen bases, but for his batting. He averaged .450, had nine hits, including one home run, and hit safely at least once in each of the series and play-off games, extending a post-season streak to 14 games.

This was the second consecutive defeat in the World Series for the Braves. Last year, they lost an equally draining championship in seven games to the Minnesota Twins; this year, they reached the series only thanks to an unlikely ninth-inning recovery against the Pittsburgh Pirates in the final game of the playoffs.

Bobby Cox, their manager, could not disguise his disappointment. "We're thankful that we got here two years in a row, but we are not exactly jumping up and down just now. We wanted to win," he said.

The last word, however, belongs to Winfield. "We are going back to Toronto with the championship. It's America's game but now it's going to Canada for a while."

SQUASH

Marshall on the climb

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN AMSTERDAM

PETER Marshall, the British champion, picked off another of the world's elite in the second round of the Dutch Open here on Saturday, as he beat Rodney Martin, of Australia, 15-17, 7-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-8 in 73 minutes.

Marshall followed up that success last night when he went into the semi-finals by defeating Danny Meddings 17-14, 15-13, 9-15, 15-7.

Unique as the only double-handed player among the top professionals, Marshall, 21, said after winning the national championship last January that he was hoping to enter the world's top five this year.

By beating Chris Robertson and Brett Martin, both from Australia, and the New Zealander, Ross Norman, Marshall was elevated to 10th on the world ranking list.

The following month, in the World Open in Johannesburg, Marshall drove Jahangir Khan out of the tournament in exhaustion. Here, he repeated the treatment for Martin. The 1991 world champion who is the present world No. 4.

Just as Jahangir dominated the first two games in Johannesburg, Marshall took the early part of Saturday's second-round match with fluent authority, moving with easy rhythm and striking nicks seemingly at will.

But Marshall's straight and unchanging rallying is enormously physically demanding. At 6-6 in the third game, Martin fell abruptly into a series of five unforced errors and from 12-12 contributed two penalty strokes to his eventual downfall. From that point on, Marshall's strength commanded the court.

Results, page 26

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

COMPETITION

Matthew Nicholls, of 88, Honeybrook Terrace, Franche, Kidderminster, has won The Times/Sky Sports competition offering a luxury package to the world heavyweight boxing championship eliminator between Lennox Lewis and Razzor Ruddock at Earls Court on Saturday, October 31. Mr Nicholls won a prize including a pair of ringside seats, bed and champagne breakfast at the White House Hotel, Regent's Park, travel expenses and a pair of Lewis's boxing gloves, signed by him. The five runners-up each receive a pair of tickets to the bout, worth £75. They are David Burns, of 72, St Lawrence Road, Denton, Manchester; Carol Body, 166d, Wallwood Road, Leytonstone; Bruce Dear, 16, Weston Way, Balcatta; Jane Leicester, 1, Talbot Hill Road, Bournemouth, and John Kidd, Park View House, Bull Lane, Wrotham. The winners were: 1, Canada; 2, Super-heavyweight; 3, Mike Dixon.

RACING

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FROM PETER BRYAN IN PARIS

THE three-day Nations track competition, which ended here last night, cried out from the start for Chris Boardman to appear astride his hi-tech Lotus cycle and add to the British squad's scoring ability and lift it from eighth, and last, place, where it had stayed throughout the series.

It was not to be. The Olympic pursuit champion decided immediately after

Barcelona that he wanted a complete rest from the sport. Only for a few seconds, when invited to lead the British team of eight in a daily series of eight races, did Boardman consider accepting before declining.

If nothing else, the last three days of racing should lay to rest earlier comments that his Olympic gold medal was won by the machine and not the man.

The Lotus pursuit cycles were here, one for Shaun

Wallace, runner-up in the professional world championship, and Bryan Steel, the British rider who had given the machine its competition debut. Neither was able to produce times that would have underpinned Britain's chances for the start.

In fairness to the squad, the opportunity for track competition ended almost two months ago and the riders' task was not made easier by each having to compete in at least two events every day.

The programme of individual and team pursuits, time-trial, motorcycle-paced, elimination, points and sprint events was a foretaste of the proposed formula for the world championships from 1995.

It produced a three-cornered rivalry between Germany, France and Russia from day one, dominated by the Germans, whose classic pre-race line-up included Jens Fiedler, Michael Hubner and Jens Lehmann, recalling their

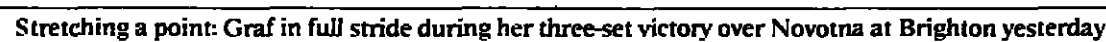
successes at Barcelona and Valencia.

Wallace turned in the best British performance, reaching the 3,000 metres pursuit final against Boardman's Olympic final opponent, Lehmann. But the German was not deterred by his latest encounter with the Lotus cycle and won by four seconds, with a time of 3min 20.94sec to ensure overall victory for his team and take prize money of about £27,000.

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Germany, 189 points; 2, France, 143; 3, Russia, 127; 8, Great Britain 61.

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But, despite surviving the second set, Graf still could not find any rhythm in the face of Novotna's deliberate pace. She was broken in the first and seventh games of the



Surprisingly good in the air for his height — the goal was a superb header from Raeli's centre — Cooper's positional sense and distribution were impeccable. Despite being rather right-footed, he is more comfortable in possession than many central defenders.

McCarthy: a hit-and-hop merchant as a player, actively encourages his team to adhere to the passing game and Millwall's crowd have finally

saw West Ham United beaten in the league for the first time since August. Craig Maskell scored from a free kick six minutes from time to give Swindon Town a 1-0 win.

Derby County beat Charlton Athletic 4-3, their sixth win in seven games, and Luton Town recorded only their second success of the season, winning 3-2 away to Peterborough United.

reflected Bradford's superiority. Jewell had hit one post up the first half, Blake the other. Lawford's deflected shot, Tinnion's teasing cross and McCarthy's low drive had all met the same fate after the

In between, Blake had finally found the target, timing his run across the area perfectly to meet Tinnion's left-wing cross with a firm header in the 68th minute.

"It is going to get harder," Stapleton said. "I want to be top and stay top and that brings its own pressure, a lot. Orient found out today. But it's better than life at the bottom."

BRAIDFORD CITY: P. Tomlinson; H. Heslgrave; G. Oliver, L. Duxbury, N. Blake, L. Howarth, J. Houghton, J. Lewis, J. P. Jewell, G. Williams, S. McCarthy.

Weekend statistics

The LOCAL Derby match in the Porters (Stoke v Port Vale) yielded the highest second division gate of the season so far, 24,500.

GOALSCORERS

	League	FA Cup	League Cup
Premier League			
Shearer (Blackburn)	12	3	2
Straker (Sheff Wed)	10	3	2
Cannone (Ipswich)	9	—	—
Wright (Aston Villa)	9	—	—
Walsh (Aston Villa)	7	—	—
Walsh (Middlesbrough)	7	—	—
Sanderson (Aston Villa)	7	—	—
Harford (Sheff Wed)	7	—	—
Wiles (Sheff Wed)	6	—	—
Roberts (Middlesbrough)	6	1	—
Fernandez (QPR)	6	1	—
Hammond (Sheff Wed)	6	—	—
Sheenham (Aston Villa)	6	—	—
Gray (Sheff Wed)	5	—	—
First division			
Whelanham (Preston)	10	2	2
Sanderson (Milton)	9	—	—
Wright (Preston)	9	—	—
Alcock (Torquay)	8	—	—
Black (Preston)	8	—	—
Furlong (Wokingham)	6	—	—
Salmon (Bristol City)	5	—	—
Wiles (Milton)	5	—	—
Mitchell (Swindon)	4	—	—
Second division			
Stoke (Stoke)	8	4	—
Taylor (Ipswich)	6	1	—
Went (Bristol City)	5	—	—

[illegible]

Division	total	avg	chng	chng
Prm (15)	265,472	20,421	-3.6	-5
Dt 1 (12)	128,223	10,769	+14.6	+2
Dt 2 (13)	93,079	7,160	+36.3	+3
Dt 3 (10)	25,340	2,534	-14.8	-6

Highest Loaves: Premier division 36.3
 (Liverpool + Norwich) 8.628 (Wimbledon
 Tottenham). First division 30.088 (Newcastle
 Grimsby). 3.818 (Southend + Cambridge
 Second division 24.510 (Stoke + Port Vale)
 3.047 (Mansfield + Preston) Third division
 4.161 (Shrewsbury + Carlisle) 1.216 (Bolton)



Facing up to defeat: British supporters at the World Cup final on Saturday

Australians mine a rich vein of talent

Andy Martin journeyed to Wembley in search of the secret of the supremacy of the Australia rugby league supporter

For a few hours on Saturday afternoon, World Cup fever gripped the Metropolitan Line. This train stops at Wembley Park and all stations to Uxbridge, blared the tannoy at King's Cross. "Stand clear of the doors, please. And I hope we win!"

This is the first time I have heard an announcement on the Underground that has been met with hearty cheers rather than jeers. But it would have been just as appropriate if the nasal voice bellowing "Mind the gap!" For the rugby league gap between Great Britain and Australia was all too visible.

Australia started with an unfair advantage. They were bigger and heavier than us. We were giving away about two stones per man. They looked healthier, with rugged, bushwhacker physiques and sunbaked skin. And that was just the spectators. They were the same green and yellow colours as their team, except it was sprayed on their faces like war paint.

That detail apart, their

expressionism was not in the least abstract. They were louder than us, too, and not just in their clothes, as demonstrated in a rousing chorus of "Waltzing Matilda". "Where's your voices then, ya Pommy poofers?" bellowed the pair of lumps next to me. "We let our rugby do the talking," retorted a restrained Englishman.

"What's that, mate? I can't hear ya!" The Aussie, in the stands as on the fields, had the last word.

Chief Superintendent Slessor of the Met was fearful of a pitch invasion by miners protesting at British Coal sponsorship of the Britain team. Too bad it didn't happen. We could have done with a mob of men with picks, used to hacking away at rock, or perhaps a few well-placed sticks of dynamite, to blow a hole through the muscular Australian defence.

Disguised in a Billabong hat adorned with corks and bearing the inscription "G'day, Sport!" was Neil Bailey, from Tamerton. He confessed to being a double traitor, since he was not only English but a union man who had played for Bath to boot. "I'm supporting the Aussies because I think they're going to win," he said. Prophetic, but definitely deficient in the sympathy-for-the-underdog mentality.

He was at Wembley thanks to the hospitality of British Coal since, as his company's business development manager, he was in the habit of buying coal from them. Eight of his colleagues had turned down the invitation. "They didn't want to be seen having a good time at the expense of the miners" — 30,000 men made redundant, and we get a free key-ring," he said, jangling another example of

British Coal generosity. "Our coal is good coal," he said. "But right now Australian coal is a good buy. It's low in sulphur." It was in many ways a depressing afternoon. Even their coal was better than our coal.

Bailey had a theory about the low ebb in British rugby. "It's all down to the mine closures. Look at Wales. You don't get the same granite-hard men any more. The mines were a breeding ground for rugby players." No wonder the government ministers at the game were roundly booed. It was their fault we lost.

"You try stopping him," Bailey said, when Steve Renouf made the decisive break. "Six-foot four and 16-stone and moving like a train. You can't, can you?"

Well, we did try. Our man Shaun Edwards kneeled him in the teeth but that only riled the Australian and provoked him into scoring.

Brits outbombed Australians by about 5-1 but they kept beating us, demoralised and let them shear sleep in the off-season.

at the Olympics. What is the explanation? "Vegetables," reckoned Sue, a strapping blonde-haired Queensland woman who was following the Australian tour.

"It's our secret weapon. That and XXXX beer." As an afterthought, she added: "You ought to eat more meat. Good Australian beef." As her father and her boyfriend both run million-acre cattle stations, I put the carnivore hypothesis down to pure self-interest.

"Maybe it's the wide open spaces and all that fresh air," Sue suggested.

That could well be the Malthusian answer: the more the worse — we have too many people in too small a country, and we keep running up against brick walls as the British team did, while the Australians are used to finding and running into empty spaces.

The lesson of the afternoon was clear: either we send our players down the mines, if there are any, or alternatively we ship them off to Australia and let them shear sheep in the off-season.

Britain's cautious tactics punished in final reckoning

Great Britain 6
Australia 10

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN THE ten years since Max Krilich's Kangaroos showed British rugby league a new way of playing, a chasm has come down to a fissure.

Australia have always been the role models yet, by following Antipodean fashion so slavishly at Wembley on Saturday, Great Britain sacrificed inventive risk and may have forfeited victory.

For the want of a single, agonising error, 13 minutes from time, a World Cup final was lost. But then, at no point did Britain go flat out to win. They got the safety first aspect nearly right but a speculative policy of kicking high and chasing hard brought little accumulative attacking ideas other than to trust that their opponents would make defensive mistakes.

Australia committed none and suffocated everything, save the occasional half break. On such slender opportunities, of course, Martin Offiah has constructed a legend. After a lonely afternoon lurking on the left wing, a single late floated pass from Schofield was followed by 73.631 sets of expectant eyes, only as far as Meninga's outstretched fingertips.

Offiah's agony was shared by those around him, who were continually frustrated by Australia's uncanny knack of committing defenders rapidly and in sufficient numbers to snuff out Britain's every threat.

When Bobby Fulton, the Australia coach, talked of the bounce of the ball favouring his team, he knew, too, that the speed and forward steamhammer of Australia at the rucks is the one remaining area where a crucial difference between the sides still exists.

In spite of the punishing drives of the prop forwards — Platt, Ward, and his replacement, Skerrett — Australia's heavier pack achieved greater and more rapid yardage from the play-the-ball.

Britain must develop bigger, bulkier forwards, without sacrificing mobility, in time for Australia's next visit in two years and the World Cup tournament here in 1995.

Whether Malcolm Reilly, the Britain coach, will be around then is in some doubt. The temptation to get back into club coaching, possibly at Castleford next season, may now be overwhelming. He has achieved all he possibly can with this side.

Before a splendidly raucous world record crowd for an international, Meninga, the Australia captain, whose hand-offs to Carne helped dominate the right flank, said his side had "got a monkey off our backs". He was referring to losing at Wembley in 1990.

For Schofield, his counterpart for Britain, the Australia hoo-doo — a decade of progress contrasted by 13 defeats by world champions in 19 games — is evidence of the need he feels to develop increased upper body strength for a more penetrative style of offence, although little else.

Whereas they would once have crumbled under the intimidating pressure of the Australia forwards, Britain's magnificent scrambling defence held good for 67 minutes. The pity was that for a crucial ten minutes in the



Victors and vanquished: the relieved Australians celebrate at the end while Platt and Offiah, of Britain, slump to the ground in dejection

second half it had to do so without Edwards.

According to Fulton, the stand-off half's knee in Renouf's face might have been the decisive factor. Compensation for the absence of Edwards while in the sin bin drained Britain appreciably.

While Fox kicked with unfailing accuracy, apart from the one dropped ball that gifted the scrum half the first of his three opening half goals, Brasher, at full back, was supreme under the high ball. He denied Britain their only try-scoring chance by getting between Tait and the ball after Fox had launched a steeping effort in front of the posts.

Britain had led for the entire match but the Australian try was somehow inevitable. If someone like Offiah could not take the game by the scruff of the neck, such defensive intensity could only be broken by an error.

Hunt was the culprit on a first tackle on his 25. Langer tackled low and the ball coughed up. On their fifth move, Walters swung play quickly left to brother Kevin. His long, flat pass was met by Renouf, who stepped outside Devereux's lunging challenge.

Meninga's machine conversion completed Australia's fourth successive World Cup success.

Offiah too quick to the exit

A LOVE affair with Wembley came to an abrupt and bitter end for Martin Offiah, who was severely injured after his team-mates stayed to acknowledge the support of a world record attendance of 73,631 for an international rugby league match (Christopher Irvine writes).

After scoring tries on two previous visits, and having received the attendant hype before the game on Saturday, Offiah responded to his sense of wounded pride by making

an early exit. He was careful to collect his losers' medal. Twice in the past he has been in trouble for not doing so, including being fined after Wigan's Charity Shield defeat in August.

"I'm not into hanging about," he said. "Australia won the game. I congratulated them and I left the stage to them. They didn't require me to watch them do a lap of honour."

Maurice Lindsay, the Great Britain manager, confirmed yesterday that no action will be

taken against the player. "It is not compulsory for anyone to do a lap of honour."

Offiah's decision, if unexpected, work in defence was not matched in attack. Not a solitary pass came his way on the left wing all afternoon.

"The nearest I got to the ball was right at the end," Offiah said. "It would have been a 60-40 chance but Gary Schofield sent out the pass and then Mal Meninga popped up to intercept it."

"You have days like that, today was one of them."

TEAMS AND SCORERS

SCORERS: GREAT BRITAIN: Goals: Fox (3), Australia: Tait. Penalties: Meninga (3).
GREAT BRITAIN: J. Lydon (Wigan, sub: A. Tait, Leeds); A. Hunt (St Helens); G. Connolly (St Helens, sub: J. Devereux, Wigan); G. Schofield (Leeds, captain); M. Offiah (Wigan); S. Edwards (Wigan); D. Fox (Bradford Northern); K. Walters (Leeds, sub: K. Skerrett, Wigan); M. Dermott (Wigan); A. Platt (Wigan); D. Bates (Wigan); J. Cadden (Wigan); E. Hensley (Leeds, sub: R. Eyles, Wigan).

AUSTRALIA: T. Brasher (Brisbane); W. Carne (Brisbane); S. Renouf (Brisbane); M. Meninga (Canberra, captain); M. Brasher (Brisbane); S. Renouf (Brisbane); A. Langer (Brisbane); G. Langer (Brisbane); S. Walters (Canberra); M. Sargent (Newcastle, sub: J. Cartwright, Penrith); P. Sironen (Brisbane, sub: D. Gillespie, Wests); B. Linde (Wests); B. Clyde (Canberra, sub: K. Walters, Brisbane).
Referee: D. Hale (New Zealand).

ATHLETICS

FRANKFURT MARATHON: Men: 1. S. Dettmer (Ger), 2hr 12min 50sec; 2. G. Döbler (Ger), 2hr 13min 15sec; 3. M. Geringer (Ger), 2hr 13min 20sec; 4. K. Dettmer (Ger), 2hr 13min 25sec; 5. B. Moos (Ger), 2hr 13min 30sec; 6. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 13min 35sec; 7. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 13min 40sec; 8. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 13min 45sec; 9. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 13min 50sec; 10. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 13min 55sec; 11. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 00sec; 12. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 05sec; 13. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 10sec; 14. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 15sec; 15. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 20sec; 16. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 25sec; 17. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 30sec; 18. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 35sec; 19. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 40sec; 20. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 45sec; 21. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 50sec; 22. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 14min 55sec; 23. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 15min 00sec; 24. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 15min 05sec; 25. A. Schöpp (Ger), 2hr 15min 10sec; 26. A. 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rein of tale Zoman passes fitness test to take Breeders' Cup chance

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT



Cole: high hopes for juvenile Firm Pledge

AUL Cole, whose successful aids about this season have earned £150,000 in prize money, yesterday declared Zoman fit to take on Rodrigo de Triano and the best of the United States can offer the 13 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Gulfstream Park next Saturday.

The recent winner of the \$750,000 Budweiser International at Laurel, Maryland, was watched by his owner, Fahd Salman, as he worked over five-and-a-half furlongs at Whatcombe yesterday, demonstrating he had recovered from a bruised foot.

Although European form points to Zoman being a few pounds behind the best, Cole believes the conditions of the Classic could help to level out the difference, in the same way Ibn Bey defied the odds to finish second in the valuable race two years ago.

"He's a battler and can go one good speed all the way. Horses don't pick up on the dirt in the way they do on turf. It's a sloggers' race in a way, and that's what he is."

The Cole-Salman partnership will also be represented in Florida by Firm Pledge, third behind Zalanic in the Dewhurst Stakes, who sparked in his last piece of work on Saturday.

The trainer's confidence in the two-year-old for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile won last year by Arzi — is infectious. I

English-trained horse winning one of the seven Breeders' Cup races, and 6-4 against one not winning a race.

Lester Piggott, nearing his 57th birthday, is 9-4 against becoming the oldest jockey to win a Breeders' Cup race. The honour currently belongs to Bill Shoemaker.

Apart from riding Rodrigo de Triano in the Classic, Piggott is also booked for Mr Brooks in the sprint. The Richard Hannon-trained sprinter remains 6-1, but the odds against Sheikh Albadou repeating his success of last year were slashed following an impressive piece of work on Newmarket's gallops.

Alex Scott's speedy colt is now 9-4 from 3-1 with Ladbrokes and has snatched favouritism from Rubiano, whose best form is over seven furlongs. Britain's banker should start at a longer price in Florida.

Marquetry is now likely to run in the Mile, leaving Jolypha to contest the Classic. Both horses are owned by Khalid Abdullah.

Whatever the outcome in Florida, Abdullah can dream of untold glory in Europe next year.

Zalanic, even money favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, and Tenby, favourite for the Derby, have already made the pulse quicken. Armiger's impressive success in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster on Saturday provided the publicity-prince with his fifth group one juvenile success this season.

Only Vaguely Noble's winning distance of seven lengths exceeded the six-length margin Armiger enjoyed over his milling rivals. Having beaten the Fillies' Mile and Royal Lodge Stakes winners so comprehensively, his form is every bit as good as that of Tenby.

Ladbrokes were knocked over after offering 12-1 against Armiger for the Derby. By yesterday the odds were clipped to 10-1. Tenby is 8-1 while Taos is 16-1 and Barthea 20-1.

The ground would appear to be critical to Armiger's future. Henry Cecil would not have run the Rainbow Quest colt if the going had been firm. Indeed, it was 50-50 against him even being declared for the race. Fortunately, the late rain provided perfect going.

"You could not really say how good he is going to be," Cecil reflected yesterday. "He has followed very much as Tenby. He's an improving horse, when you consider he had only one race and was against experienced horses."

Assessor has 43-1 success

ASSESSOR, ridden by Richard Quinn, recaptured his best form for Richard Hannon when dominating the finish of the Prix Royal-Oak at Longchamp yesterday (Our French Racing Correspondent writes).

Relishing the heavy ground, the Lingfield Derby Trial winner took command 300 yards out and battled on well to hold Henry Candy's Always Friendly (Alan Munro) by two-and-a-half lengths.

His supporters will have been delighted with the 43-1 dividend he paid on the Parimutuel.

Sought Out (Cash Asmussen), who had easily landed the Prix du Cadran in his previous race, was backed down to 5-4 on, but was a well-beaten third.

Other British hopefuls, Witnes Box, Allegan and Balbarbi, took fifth, sixth and tenth places respectively.

The French-trained Keen Hunter (Steve Cauthen) was beaten three-quarters of a length by the two-year-old Wixen in the Prix du Petit Couvert over five furlongs.

Francois Doumen's The Fellow captured the Prix Heros XII at Auteuil on Saturday, beating Ultra Rochelais by one-and-a-half lengths, and now heads for the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on November 24.

Michael Roberts was beaten into second place with Right Win and Cloud Of Dust in the two main races at San Siro, Milan, yesterday.

For Reg has ideal conditions to initiate Roberts double

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

For Reg later finished fourth in another handicap at York.

A repetition of either of those efforts would see off Desert Zone, South Sea and Galacis Miss as he has a markedly higher rating.

Heaven-Liegh-Grey, from Mark Johnston's successful Middleham yard, ran well enough at Nottingham last Monday when runner-up to Peacocks Prince to suggest that she can go one better in the Thrushington Handicap.

While Roberts will be hoping for a big run from Bighayir in the Squirrel Handicap, I just prefer Virkon Venture who is running in to form. Bearing in mind the weather, the ground cannot be too soft for him.

Roberts apart, it should also pay to follow Willie Carson there on Ribhi (3.30) and Alhaajib (4.00).

Ribhi, my choice for the John O'Gaunt Nursery, was an impressive winner at Nottingham before finishing a good second to Dutosky in his first nursery at York.

Lahib's younger brother Alhaajib only has to reproduce his Newbury performance when fourth behind Tuk Fa to land the Widmerpool Maiden Stakes.

While Carson will also be hoping for a good ride in the EBF Fleckney Maiden Fillies' Stakes on Thibaur, who finished third on the track a fortnight ago, my source in Newmarket suggests she will be hard pressed to cope with the Henry Cecil-trained newcomer Khubza, the mount of Steve Cauthen.

Today's nap though is Threepence to win the second division of the Levy Board Claiming Stakes on the all-weather track at Lingfield.

On the turf at Chester last Tuesday, Threepence will probably be running his last race for trainer Jack Berry because he is due to be sold at Newmarket on Wednesday.

On the Lingfield Equitrac you need to have horses who can lie handy. At Chester, Threepence did just before taking command two furlongs from home and winning by five lengths.

Aerie Appeal, his stable companion who is also due to be sold, has the ability to win the Burnt Oak Handicap.

Kooyonga is caught out

CANADIAN owner Harry Dobson ran Mining Tycoon to ensure a true gallop in the £12,000 Tokyo Thoroughbred race at Leopardstown on Saturday (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

But the pace he set, in the hands of Kevin Manning, not only proved much too strong for Dobson's main hope, Arrikala, but also resulted in the defeat of the odds-on favourite, Kooyonga.

A Japanese television crew was on hand for what was

LEICESTER

MANDARIN

1.30 Khubza.
2.30 Galacis Miss.
2.30 For Reg.
3.30 Virkon Venture.
3.30 Ribhi.
3.30 Alhaajib.
4.30 Heaven-Liegh-Grey.

RICHARD EVANS: 1.30 Smocking.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.30 KHUBZA (nap).
3.00 Virkon Venture. 3.30 Ribhi.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 FOR REG.

GOING: SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.30 EBF FLECKNEY MAIDEN STAKES (All-weather: Div 1: £2.70; Div 2: £2.70) (14 runners)

1 (10) 50000 ROLLA A MAJORITY 14 (5) (F. C. C. 11) W. Doyle 59
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OPERA page 30
Domingo: With him on stage and Solti in the pit, Covent Garden has an Otello to cherish

ARTS

GALLERIES page 31
Chagall: unseen for years, some of his strongest work from the 1920s is on view



Who cares whose line it is?



Post-modern, deconstructed Chekhov: a scene from the Wooster Group version of *The Three Sisters*, retitled *Brace Up!*, at the Tramway, Glasgow, from Wednesday

New York's infamous Wooster Group is back in Britain, though not with the Arthur Miller *Crucible* "on acid" that we saw on its last visit. This time the troupe has turned its post-modern sights on Chekhov, with a deconstructed version of *The Three Sisters*, retitled *Brace Up!*, that may demolish your preconceptions of what Chekhov—even theatre itself—is all about. Glasgow will get it first, at the Tramway on Wednesday. London may have it next summer.

In the international world of theatre, no company is regarded with such extremes of respect and bewilderment, adoration and loathing as the Wooster Group. In their home town its members are isolated, but proudly aloof from the media dross that other companies are caught up in. "People in New York who are making theatre actually don't like us because we're not what they consider theatre," says Peyton Smith, who plays Olga, and they don't like it that we don't play the game. We don't let the media use us. We almost never do interviews or let people write about us. And we don't have openings, so they can't review it."

The text of *Brace Up!* is basically Chekhov's, though the translation by Paul Schmidt makes it, as the company says, less "Englishified". This *Masha's* "Oh, what a damnably life! It's intolerable," becomes "what a miserable goddamn life!"

All the actors speak into microphones. Some of them are "interviewed" by a narrator, who also reads the stage directions. Others play their parts off stage before a video camera and are seen in close-up on television screens. No one looks at anyone else when speaking; some of the actors read their lines from the script, and for most of the time there is no attempt at what you might call an acted rendition of the play.

Periodically the whole cast will

THEATRE: Wooster Group shows are more like television than conventional drama, but Kenneth Rea argues that this New York performance art company may represent the future

break into strange dances taken, incidentally, from the Cook Islands. Sometimes the narrator's interventions conspire to give the impression that we are seeing the show on a bad night. "The actor who plays Solyony isn't here yet, so we'll skip him." And then in the middle of Act IV, the narrator interrupts the scene with a blunt, "That's all for tonight. Thank you for coming." And the show is over.

Baffling, yes. But underneath the iconoclasm is 15 years of ensemble development and an aesthetic that not only goes well beyond Brecht, but overturns all received ideas of what constitutes good acting.

The Wooster Group members may behave uncompromisingly; they may seem precious about what they're doing, but they have to be taken seriously. No longer are they a bunch of experimentalists in their twenties. Some are already into middle-age and have accrued a solid professionalism. The importance of these people is that they may be laying out the ground for the theatre of the future. Whether you find that repellent or exciting depends on your standpoint.

"Our audience tend to be people who go to music and film events and people who watch a lot of TV," says the group's director, Elizabeth LeCompte. "Those people have very little trouble with our work. The ones who seem to have the trouble are the people who have spent a lifetime in this idea about theatre as a separate art from TV."

It is LeCompte's background in visual arts that sets the radical tone

of the Wooster Group. In fact she avoids the term "theatre" altogether, except when applying to the National Endowment for the Arts. LeCompte is convinced that the theatre, as we know it, is dying and she talks of assembling her material, then editing, cutting and splicing it as if she were making a film.

No method acting for her. "I would never talk about a scene in terms of what one character was trying to do to another," she says. "I have done that, but it's usually a last resort. Nor do I talk about the issues of the play. That's for scholars. I tend to see what's happening in terms of space and

showing emotion. He's running a race. But in that very simple structure, there's terrific emotional intensity and stuff happens."

Even so, this puts the actor in a different position and Dafoe admits that he finds the process both frustrating and exhilarating. "The frustrating thing is that the structure is always changing, so you're always very off-balance and you never know what the purpose of things is, necessarily. So you have to be very connected to the pure doing of things. That's what makes it great. You can surprise yourself when you're put in that position."

LeCompte explains the lack of eye contact as both a way of retaining actors to listen and a reflection of modern life where conversations are habitually undirected and interrupted. The use of microphones gives her a controlled aural field in which the play can envelop the audience if desired. And the television screens on stage? "I love the image," says LeCompte. "It's beautiful. It's like a Noh mask. The screens allow me to have a close-up, which you can have in film and you can't have in theatre. And people love close-ups. It's part of our vocabulary. The close-up is the biggest innovation in the arts in a hundred years."

It is hard to imagine such sharp-edged theatre coming from London or Brussels or Paris. There is something uniquely New York about the Wooster Group's abundant technology, its awesomely disciplined performers and its sheer self-confidence in what it is doing. As LeCompte puts it: "I do think there is a great cultural divide between Europe and America and I happen to think that you guys are gonna have to catch up."

● The Wooster Group is at the Tramway, Glasgow, (041-227 5511), from Wednesday to Sunday, sponsored by Orange/boon.

theatrical. Yes, *The Crucible* has all these political ramifications about McCarthyism and all that. But it's also very personal to us as hippies in the Sixties, taking acid. It's just our own investigation of our lives."

For connoisseurs of full-blooded acting, the hardest adjustment is in getting used to the actors' deadpan delivery of the lines. LeCompte's inspiration for this is the delivery of television reporters who can convey emotionally charged information without seeming to comment on it.

"These people must learn to be a kind of cypher," she says. "They have to have a way of letting you know that they care without getting involved. And the better the cypher, the more clearly the information comes through."

Such an approach, where actors are not allowed even to look at each other, would seem to be intolerably constricting. But those who perform in the Wooster Group are adamant that this is the way to do it. Willem Dafoe, who plays Andrei in *Brace Up!*, joined the company as a 22-year-old. He has been with them for 15 years now, and although he has since made his name as a film star, in *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Wild at Heart*, he is still devoted to the group. "It's much more interesting for me to confront the text than to interpret it," he says. "Basically I just try to be present and to do my tasks in the score with commitment and curiosity. And in the doing, something happens."

"You know how emotional it can be watching a long-distance runner. He's not concerned with

'No company is regarded with such extremes of respect and bewilderment, adoration and loathing'

Hitman with all the punchlines

Last night's BBC Screen One film, *Trust Me*, was a welcome attempt to inject humour into a series not usually notable for its sense of fun

Tony Sarchet has penned scripts for Jasper Carrott, Smith and Jones, Lenny Henry and the puppets on *Sprung* Image, so he must have seemed just the chap to lighten up Screen One, which has hardly been the most frolicsome of drama series. And for much of last night's play, *Trust Me*, he hilariously justified the BBC's faith. But the frontier between comedy and farce might be high in the Alps, given the slipping and disoriented stumbling it can cause a writer. For all the agility of his humour, Sarchet did not always seem sure whether he was, so to speak, in France or Switzerland, Austria or Italy.

The idea was as inspired as the casting. Alfred Molina, he of the heavy, mournful countenance and quick, sly wit, played Harry Greaves, a barman who supplemented his wages by hoaxing the

ham Chapman shouldn't arrive in his officer's uniform, as he so often did in the Python era, and give the play a formal warning for silliness. Suddenly Harry found himself in the company of one self-proclaimed hitman (Hywel Bennett), then threatened by another (Roger Lloyd Pack). The impression given was that assassins, far from lurking deep in a shadowy underworld, could be hailed like taxis. Meanwhile, another of Harry's wheezes was causing almost greater chaos. Somehow he had persuaded his businessman brother (Peter Wingfield) that he knew about a top-secret deal with the Ministry of Defence, Project Prometheus: his brother had brought in the firm's security officer (Jack Shepherd); and Harry had riposted by telling the security man that his brother's marriage was in trouble. But why on earth did that impel Shepherd

'The idea was as inspired as the casting'

to hoof it to Wingfield's house and claim to his wife (Carol Starks) he was having a homosexual affair with her husband? Even farce needs more logic than that.

With Prometheus turning out to be a self-heating soup can for use on the battlefield, the play reached a predictably frantic climax. I laughed and kept laughing, but not as happily as when Sarchet remembered that good comedy derives from nicely observed character, not contrived event. When Molina was passionately spinning fantasies of steering a Portakabin across the Atlantic, or earnestly relaying tall stories at a party ("that's not a dodgy fanbelt, I said, it's a black mamba, and it's a good thing it's asleep") — well, then the play was unqualified bliss.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Alfred Molina: mournful countenance and quick, sly wit

MAJOR ITALIAN DRAMA
AT THE NATIONAL
A rare and exciting opportunity to see the work of one of Italy's greatest directors, Giorgio Strehler

LE BARUFFE CHIOZZOTTE
(THE CHIOGGIAN QUARREL)
BY CARLO GOLDONI
DIRECTED BY GIORGIO STREHLER

The Piccolo theatre of Milan returns to London for the first time since 1958 to perform this comic and poignant tale.

Performed in Italian.
Synopsis spoken by Eileen Atkins

6 PM

Eyre's eyes on the Scottish play

THE last Shakespeare production that National Theatre director Richard Eyre directed was his Mosley-era *Richard III*, with Ian McKellen stealthily roaming the stage in his general's uniform and St George armband. The last Shakespeare performance Alan Howard gave was, well, nobody seems able to recall, so long has the one-time star of Peter Brook's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Terry Hands's *Henry V* been away from the classical stage.

But next spring Eyre is to take on yet another Shakespearean villain and Howard to tackle one of the classical roles he never essayed in his glory days with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Their joint *Macbeth* opens at the National in March, with Bob Crowley, designer of that *Richard III*, providing decor that may or may not include tartan swastikas and triumphalist architecture by Alastair McSpicer.

● AFTER the highfalutin choices of the Booker Prize judges, a very different character of shortlist has been decided by the judges of the Sunday Express Book of the Year, which gives £20,000 to the author of "the most compulsively readable novel of the year". Frank Delaney's *The Sin of the Mothers*, Robert Harris's *Fatherland*,

ARTS BRIEFING

Josephine Hart's *Sin*. Hilary Mantel's *A Place of Greater Safety*. John Mortimer's *Dunster* and Joanna Trollope's *The Men and the Girls* are the books in the running for the award, which is announced on November 25.

Mesmerising choice
DENNIS Potter failed to mesmerise cinema audiences with his last film *Secret Friends*: approximately 27 people per day purchased tickets during a two-week run at a London cinema with seating capacity for 250. Next time could be different, because Potter has chosen as his subject Dr Mesmer himself the 18th-century Austrian physician who developed the art of curing patients through hypnosis. Alan Rickman, a suitably mesmerising actor, assumes the central role when the film begins production next March. The director will be Roger Spottiswoode, last encountered struggling with Sylvester Stallone on the unfortunate *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot*.

● APPLICATIONS in by Saturday, please. If you fancy yourself as successor to David Thacker when he gives up his post as artistic director of the Young Vic, to join the Royal Shakespeare Company. After that, expect a series of gradually shrinking shortlists to be drawn up. Will the theatre's board try to find a Thacker clone, a man or woman capable of drawing the likes of Vanessa Redgrave to perform in high-toned revivals of Ibsen? Or will it remember the theatre's name and original *raison d'être*, and look for someone who makes a more direct appeal to the south London young? Expect the answer by Christmas.

Last chance...
POP Will Eat Itself was a band born ahead of its time. One of the first British groups to absorb rap and dance into a rock context, they have been forced to wait in the wings while newer acts such as EMF and Jesus Jones, using similar ideas, have hogged the limelight. Still, their recent album *The Looks or the Lifestyle* made the Top 20, and their stage show is now better than ever, combining slick vocals with raucous humour. Their tour ends at Exeter University (0392 263528) tomorrow.

SOPHOCLES' OEDIPUS PLAYS
The Thebans

In a new translation by Timberlake Wertenbaker

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Sponsored by Royal Insurance

"Greek tragedy at its most compelling"
GUARDIAN

"The gem of the RSC's year"
MAIL ON SUNDAY

Only 8 Trilogy performances remaining
Ends 26 November
Barbican Theatre Box Office 071 638 8891

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 26 1992

Russians in advance on Fifth Avenue

NEW YORK GALLERIES: Marc Chagall and the avant-garde adventure of Russia in the 1920s, celebrated in two Guggenheim shows. Review by John Russell Taylor

There is seldom anything in New York between triumph and disaster. The opening of the new, expanded Guggenheim Museum had to be one or the other. After endless prognostications of doom, and bitter complaints that the new wings had not stuck exactly to Frank Lloyd Wright's original scheme (though near enough in all conscience), it was predictable that New Yorkers, with their innate sense of drama, would pluck triumph out of disaster.

So it proved. Whatever reservations might be expressed, the new Guggenheim was undoubtedly the place to be seen, and maybe to see. The first exhibition, a safe assemblage of "masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collection", was packed to suffocation.

But the question in New York is always "What do you do for an encore?" The Guggenheim chose The Great Utopia: The Russian and Soviet Avant-Garde 1915-1932: a far more daring, innovative and scholarly show. But by the time this opened, the Museum of Modern Art was already previewing its trump card, the gigantic and altogether staggering Matisse retrospective. Inevitably it has overshadowed the Guggenheim's Russians. The novelty had worn off.

Also, the Russian show is undoubtedly harder to take. It is ironic that Constructivist abstraction — the greatest 20th century attempt to make art for the people and involve people in art — proved, at the time, difficult for the mass of Russians to fathom. Even now, since the work on show consists largely of severe and geometric abstractions, it is not well placed to compete at the box office with the lush colours and sensuous subject matter of Matisse, who seems to have worked in an unself-consciously elitist way and not given a fig for what the public thought.

All the same, "The Great Utopia" is a treasure trove for those willing to work at it. In many respects it is the story of a splendid failure. The first Russian revolutionary avant-garde

artists were admirably unpatriotic: they did not play down to their audiences, but assumed that, given the best, the masses would come to appreciate it. Exactly what happened has been obscured by the Soviet decrees, starting in the late 1920s, which banished this kind of art in favour of the official kitsch of Soviet Socialist Realism. That unfortunately conferred on "Modern Art" a kind of martyrdom: it became treacherous to enquire whether it had actually been working before it was officially denounced.

The answer seems to be that overwhelmingly it had not. Even some leaders of the new movement appear to have recognised this. The show ends with a conditional return to representation, all of their own accord, by such formerly distinguished abstractionists as Malevich, and a sort of homegrown "Recall To Order" among such painters of the younger generation as Deineka and Frenkel, with their elegant, distinctly modern but clearly figurative pictures of urban life, sporting endeavour and the like. Their art was, unlike the rest, genuinely popular. But so were god-like depictions of Stalin — for a while.

It is right that the work of such major revolutionaries as Rodchenko, Tatlin, Exter and others is often seen at its best away from the central issue of whether fine art is relevant in a workers' state. When they design sets and costumes for the theatre, or fabrics, or tableware, the effect is absolutely convincing. With the canvases, the quasi-functional sculptures, the mad architectural fantasies, it is hard to be too sure. For the Russians, fine art genuinely was a paradox. The artists who coped best are those like Malevich, Klun and, later, Kandinsky during his brief return to Russia. They followed a quite different line of mystical abstraction, or, as Malevich maintained, were not abstract at all because they offered perfectly realistic depictions of soul-states.

All the documentation is there, as one makes one's way up Wright's



Detail from Chagall's *Introduction to the Jewish Theatre*, now on show at the Guggenheim in SoHo

grand spiral (now with off-shoots) for a precise intellectual comprehension of how art developed in 1920s Russia. This may put people off. But if it does, they do not know what they are missing in sheer sensuous enjoyment of form and colour, in madcap school fun.

The main show is admirably complemented downtown at the SoHo Guggenheim — another new invention, comparable with the limbs of the Tate, which opened in late summer with another show about the Guggenheim Collection. Now, with Marc Chagall and the Jewish Theatre, it offers an annex to the Russians uptown.

This resurrects Chagall's long buried murals for the State Jewish Chamber Theatre (1920) and a selection of his costume designs for plays in its repertory. The ensemble provides another reminder of what a formidable artist Chagall was in his early, Russian days, and how dramatically he fell off later into self-imitation and sometimes unintentional self-parody.

Elsewhere in town, the National Academy of Design has a thrilling exploration of the distinctive Finnish modernist Helene Schjerfbeck (1862-1946). She is distinctly a northern painter, with a sense that the glowing colours emerge from a

surrounding darkness or the perpetual twilight of a Finnish white night. She is also one of the world's finest unsung self-portraitists. From the vulnerable, hyper-sensitive first images to the last haunting evocations of the old artist facing death unappalled, she offers a unique human document as well as unmistakably great painting.

● The Great Utopia is at the Guggenheim Museum (202-4233500) until December 12; Marc Chagall and the Jewish Theatre is at the Guggenheim Museum in SoHo (same number) until January 17; Helene Schjerfbeck: Finland's modernist, rediscovered is at the National Academy of Design (212-369 4880) until January 10

THEATRE

Deep division of the Deep South

Blues for Mr Charlie at the Manchester Royal Exchange affirms James Baldwin's theatrical genius, writes Martin Hoyle

James Baldwin's play originally ran for five hours. Gregory Hersov's new production whittles the playing time down to three and a half, including two intervals, and strikes a striding, muscular pace that never flags. On this showing Baldwin is up there with the best of American theatre. He has Arthur Miller's intellectual remorselessness without the dangerously calculated theatricality, Tennessee Williams's emotional tug without the baroque sprawl. This is a major production of a major work.

The stark opening image shows a corpse centre-stage. A man unceremoniously and with some distaste heaves it onto his shoulders and drags it off. The dead man is black, the living white. It is 1964 in the Deep South and the townspeople are puzzled by the growing discontent of the coloured population, which they put down to communists or agitators from the north.

The dead man was murdered. There is no mystery about the identity of his killer, surprise at his reluctant arrest, and complacency at his acquittal. The affair focuses on old assumptions and strained loyalties in a group that includes the slightly seedy newspaper editor with battered radical ideals and an incongruous stance as St George looking for dragons. "Dragons aren't hard to find," says a black character contemptuously. "They are everywhere."

His best buddy, improbably, is the poor white storekeeper, one black death already to his credit, chief suspect in the new killing. A betrayal of conscience in the climactic trial scene, complete with flashbacks and inner monologues in frozen time, leads to a showdown and a description of the murder.

The writing is not perfect. Baldwin's tendency to rhetori-

cal speeches sounds dated (chief sufferer is Willie Longmore, as the victim's despising father) and the self-despising failed idealist steers perilously close to cliché. But an underlying anger drives the play on, and an awareness of how threatening each side must seem to the other saves the work from stereotyping.

Above all, there are some performances as swift, terrible and inexorable as the harvest where the grapes of wrath are stored. Paterson Joseph is the murder victim, the local boy who returns from the north with its fatal desegregation, a cool-talking hip dude whose cockiness is a death warrant. The vividly confident performance eschews easy sympathy and presents insufferable sexual arrogance as well as hope.



Paterson Joseph: smart talking proves to be his death warrant

humour and bitterness. David Schofield gives of his considerable best as the redneck who has black friends but kills to avenge an insult. Nicholas Le Prevost is touching as the radical crusader in search of his soul. Among the smaller roles Nicholas Montu, a black witness in the trial, etches his lines with incisive disdain; and the Manchester Community Gospel Choir provide music off and finally, deservedly, on stage.

DANCE: John Percival on *Swan Lake*, which opened the new Royal Ballet season

When Anthony Dowell's production of *Swan Lake* was new in 1987, a student from the Royal Ballet school stood on stage nightly as one of the Princess's attendants, devouring the action with her eyes. So intent was she that this spectator's attention was often drawn to her. A few months later she herself danced the "Black Swan" showpiece from the ballet for her graduation. On Thursday she opened the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden season dancing Odette-Odile.

Doreen Russell is at an intermediate stage in her development: beyond teenage instinct, but still building stage craft. Some parts of this role she does beautifully. But she sometimes lets us see the strain behind her control, pushing

Still a cygnet among the swans

for high leg extensions occasionally prejudices her balance; and in Act II she has developed the look of the dances more than their meaning.

Her new partner, Zoltan Solymosi, is just the man to help her extend her command. He knows that the best thing to do with his conventional old role is to play it absolutely straight, as wholeheartedly as possible. Strong, smooth, manly dancing (Siegfried has his proper solo again, not the namby-pamby one

Dowell originally substituted) strong, absolutely reliable partnering; strong, sincere acting. His looks are a bonus.

We are told that Yolanda Sonnabend's imaginative settings look fine on the much larger stages in New York and Washington where the company played last year. Too bad that nobody warned her they would cramp the action intolerably at Covent Garden. The first half looks fussy, the second half murky. Better guidance at the planning stage could have prevented that.

There are some costume revisions this time out: the most significant are new head-dresses for the swans.

Ashton's neopagan dance has been added to Act III, confining somewhat with the generally dark mood, but welcome for its own sake. The production is as before: admirable in reproducing so much of Ivanov's and Petipa's inspired 1895 choreography; tiresome in some of its amendments and in adding a lot of drunken hooliganism.

Barry Wordsworth and the opera house orchestra played Tchaikovsky's music splendidly. There was excellent dancing from the corps, with Tracy Brown and Dana Fournas as soloists in Act IV, and a full house to welcome the company back.

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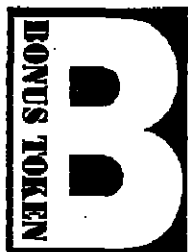
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Management schools are adapting to changes in their own market, John O'Leary reports

Business goes back to school

This week will see far-reaching changes in the already volatile world of management education. In bureaucratic terms, they will mean the creation of a single association of business schools and a powerful institute of management, but the long-term impact may run much deeper.

More than a million unqualified managers are about to have their authority challenged as the profession adopts a new culture, attaching unprecedented importance to education. The switch should be good news for business schools, many of which are struggling to maintain recruitment in the hither-to lucrative MBA market.

Business and management courses have been the prime growth area of the new universities in particular. Although undergraduate and sub-degree courses continue to thrive, some of the MBA courses which have mushroomed in the past five years are in trouble. The number of programmes has almost doubled in that time, making Britain by far the largest provider in Europe, with more than 5,000 graduates this year.

As in the United States, where the qualification originated, growth was fuelled by a belief among many ambitious young graduates that an MBA was becoming a prerequisite for promotion. Now, however, growth has been halted by a combination of the recession and a suspicion that some courses are not worth their high prices. The business schools are coy about current recruitment, but numbers may be down by as much as a quarter.

Even healthy schools, such as Luton College's Putteridge Bury management centre,

have found students reluctant to commit themselves to an MBA course. Almost half of the 45 applicants withdrew in the fortnight before the course was due to start, many alarmed by the events of "Black Wednesday".

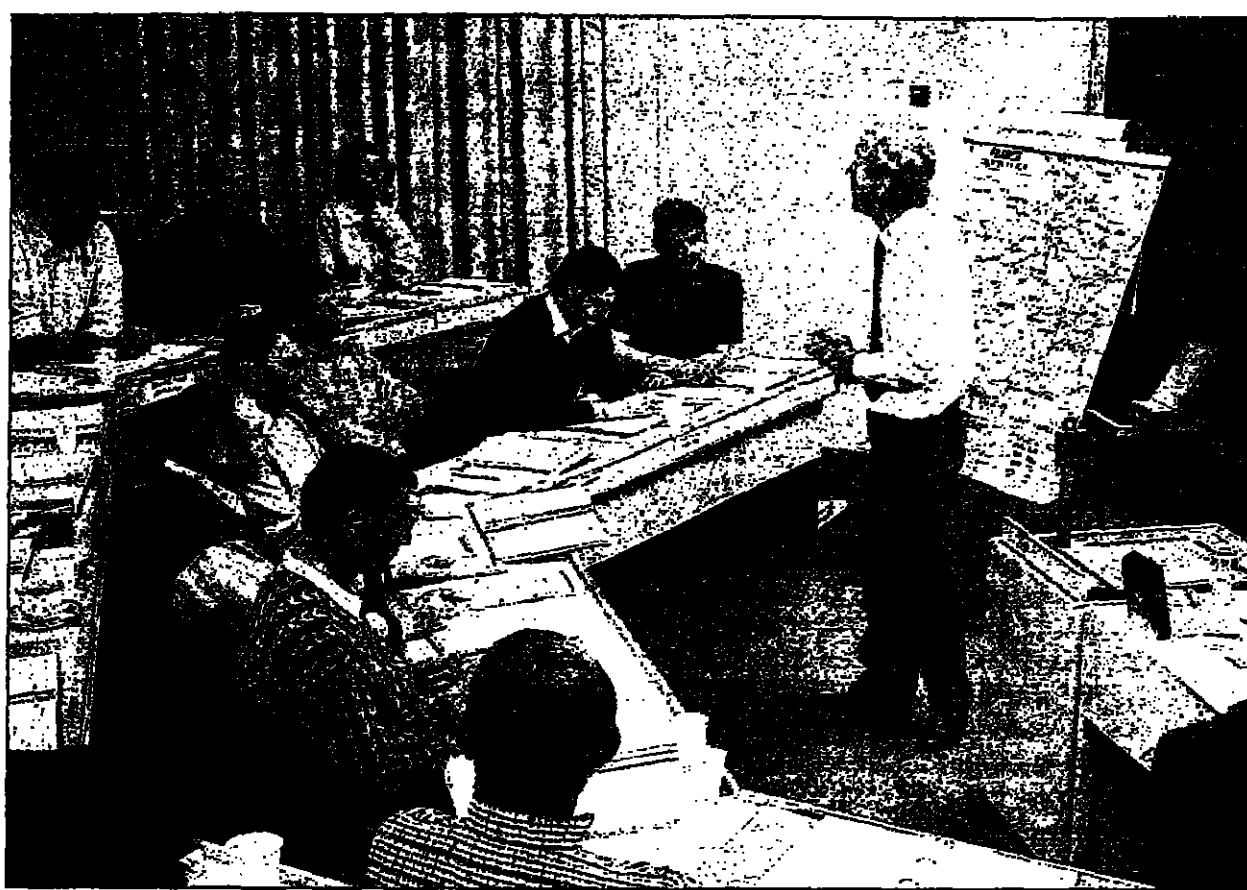
Less firmly established courses may face difficulty even when the recession ends because of doubts about quality and the probability that demand will become more discriminating. This week's changes are not intended to offer an easy way out to such schools, but they may encourage others to concentrate on their strengths, in the process delivering a better service to British industry and commerce.

If the new Institute of Management succeeds in changing the culture of its profession, the main demand will be for certificate and diploma courses, and for tailored programmes to satisfy firms' or even individuals' particular requirements.

Managers will need the equivalent of a degree to qualify for membership, but practical experience will be taken into account. Current members of the two partners in the venture, the British Institute of Management (BIM) and the Institution of Industrial Managers (IIM), will be spared, but others will have to submit a portfolio of work for assessment if they wish to avoid examinations.

Professor Peter Wilson, the IIM chairman and head of Putteridge Bury, says: "Our emphasis will be on vocational rather than academic skills. We want people who are capable of doing, not just understanding, so there will be a certain level of experience needed for admission."

The new structure will offer



Many business schools may be struggling to fill their MBA programmes, but the Cranfield School of Management, in Bedfordshire (above), offers proof that managers are prepared to pay large sums and interrupt a career to join a top-rated course.

Cranfield has introduced a £25 application fee in order to minimise the strain on the admissions process. Even so, this year there were 600 applications for a possible 200 places, of which only 166 were accepted.

Joseph Nellis, the director of the school's MBA programme, says: "Restricting the intake has made a hole in my budget, but I recognise that quality has to be the main consideration. Our alumni keep a very close eye on us because they

associate membership to those who lack such experience, and there will be an affiliate grade for those who do not qualify for full membership but wish to stay in touch with developments. The initial target is 75,000 members, the combined strength of the existing institutes, but the hope is that the new organisation will draw in far more managers before long.

The institute will be the second in recent months to put

have a stake in the school's reputation."

With fees set at almost £10,000 a year for British students, and £14,500 for those outside the EC, the cost of that stake is considerable. This year's students have an average of seven years' experience in business or industry, so most have given up well-paid jobs. Growing numbers also want to invest redundancy payments in an MBA.

A group of new students, mostly in their thirties, were attracted by the prospect of a high-intensity, one-year course that would broaden career options, rather than pay off immediately in salary terms. More than 60 per cent of their counterparts last year found jobs before the end of the course. Others chose to set up their own businesses, or

delayed in the hope that the recession would lift.

Professor Leo Murray, the school's director, says: "Business schools are often accused of creating the myth that an MBA opens doors automatically. We do not do that here, but we do believe that employers are going to become more and more interested in where an MBA comes from."

Cranfield has been oversubscribed since 1975, and has reached the point where it compares itself with the leading business schools more than most others in Britain. Only the London Business School, where the MBA takes two years, and Warwick University, which recently went over to a one-year course, are regarded as serious competitors.

BIM launched the Diploma in Management Studies, now the most popular qualification in the field with 30,000 students, in the 1950s, while the IIM has made the running recently with its Leader series of courses, running in 100 centres across Britain.

Some business schools are already preparing for a new client group. Putteridge Bury, for example, has offered to sponsor students who want to join the new institute, and is

launching a modular programme of short courses for older managers who need to strengthen particular skills to qualify for membership.

Even some of the more conservative managers are starting to see the value of qualifications. Although the recession may make companies reluctant to pay for expensive training packages, it makes individuals more conscious of what they need to offer in an insecure job market.

VIEWPOINT: ELIZABETH PARHAM

Why Classics matter

Children enjoy Latin and Greek, and learn the basis of language

Study the photograph below. You are looking at one of the world's most famous and temporary Classicists. Morse is also likely to be one of the last. In future, chief inspectors who can pick up vital clues to solving crimes by examining how people use words will be rare.

This summer, Classics examiners received their lists of schools to be examined in GCSE Latin. Most of them are independent. Ten years ago, there was a mixture of state and private schools, but while independent schools still enter large

standing alone by a grave-side in the Middle East. His brother's grave. Tears stream down his face and he holds the small gifts he is holding. We know how he felt because his name was Canutus and he told us. He even made his words sound mournful and lugubrious by using lots of long sounds and "m"s. Thus young students of 1992 are in direct contact with the grief and anguish felt by this man, this poet whom they have studied in the original.

Literature is half of it: pleasant, cultured, aesthetic a channel to the arts for the groups of privileged. But

hardly vocational. We Classicists will have to do better than that if we want to justify these languages to the people able to supply the means for us to teach them.

The benefit that a course in Latin or indeed Greek offers is essentially one of word-consciousness. Having to translate

into English a language in which the words are precise and mean what they say makes students aware of the nuances in their own language, such as the difference between bold and brave, or clever and cunning. Latin students also learn about syntax. In the late 20th century, even the most ardent Classics-basher would agree that any study which aids communication is worth it.

Instead of condemning Latin as elitist, we should applaud it as high-powered — then no one would mind it being on the curriculum.



Morse: upholding a dying discipline

Welsh pupils find their tongue

The land of song is reclaiming its language through its schoolchildren

Schools are saving the Welsh language according to the latest census results. More than a quarter of the principality's children between three and 15 now speak the language, an increase of 6 per cent in a decade.

In parts of anglicised south-east Wales, the number of Welsh-speaking children has doubled since 1981, largely because of the success of bilingual schools, which teach most of the curriculum in Welsh. In Gwent, there are now six Welsh-medium primary schools and one bilingual secondary school, where in 1981 there were none.

Mid-Glamorgan, which has 24 Welsh-speaking primaries and four secondaries has also seen the number of Welsh-speakers in its schools double. In West Glamorgan, Chyd and Poyys, the process has been aided by the introduction of Welsh as a second language in English-medium schools.

In the traditional rural Welsh-speaking heartlands of Gwynedd and Dyfed, the education authorities aim to make every child bilingual by the age of 11.

Already three-quarters of Gwynedd's children between three and 15 are fluent Welsh speakers. Gwynedd Humphreys, the director of education, says: "We provide intensive language tuition in specialist centres for three months, after which the children can manage on their own in their local school. Our peripatetic teachers provide backup in the classroom, and we are fortunate that every primary teacher in Gwynedd is fully bilingual."

English-speaking parents are also encouraged to learn Welsh, with the result that the language is one of the most popular night-school subjects in North Wales.

In Dyfed, Welsh has been the usual medium of instruction since 1989. The county earned the wrath of some English-speaking parents, who established the pressure group Education First to campaign for English-medium tuition for their children, but the



National pride: Welsh children at Pontybrein primary in West Glamorgan

director of education, John Ellis, is convinced that the census results vindicate the county's policy.

"Most parents support the authority, and we are convinced that we can justify our policy to anyone. Indeed, in a bid to ensure that most of Dyfed's pupils are fully bilingual by the time the next census is held, we have decided that from next September a formal language policy will also operate in our secondary schools."

Mr Ellis is sure that the tide

Welsh parents could hijack governors' meetings and turn a formerly bilingual school into an English-medium one overnight," Mr Humphreys says. "I am not saying that will happen here in Gwynedd because all our primary and secondary head teachers support the county's policy. But, if the white paper does become law, I won't be surprised if the amount of Welsh spoken in some schools is significantly reduced."

Sir Wyn Roberts, Wales's

English-speaking parents are also encouraged to learn Welsh, with the result that the language is one of the most popular night-school subjects in North Wales

has finally turned in favour of the Welsh language. But his colleagues in Gwynedd are not so sure. Mr Humphreys fears that the government's white paper could undermine much of the progress made during the past ten years. "If all schools opt out, and so lose the central support of both a county-wide language policy and the in-service training provided by specialist, centrally funded peripatetic teachers, the linguistic ethos could change."

"If the worst comes to the worst, a small group of anti-

education minister, believes that this is unlikely because he has made Welsh compulsory in schools for the first time. It is taught as a core part of the national curriculum in Welsh-speaking schools and as a foundation subject in the principality's English-medium schools.

However, Bill Raybould, the director of the Welsh Language Education Development Committee established by the government to promote Welsh in schools, shares some of Mr Humphreys' misgivings, particularly as his com-

mittee will be suspended within two years. Its school-related duties will be assumed by the Welsh Curriculum Council. "Yet, that means we will no longer be able to offer advice on Welsh-medium nursery, further education, higher education, or teacher-training provision," he says. "Bearing in mind that 20 per cent of schools now teach through the medium of Welsh, our potential loss of influence over teacher training is disturbing."

"Our aim must be to ensure that 50 per cent of Wales's three to 15-year-olds become Welsh speakers within the next 20 years. It is a realistic target and one we could achieve."

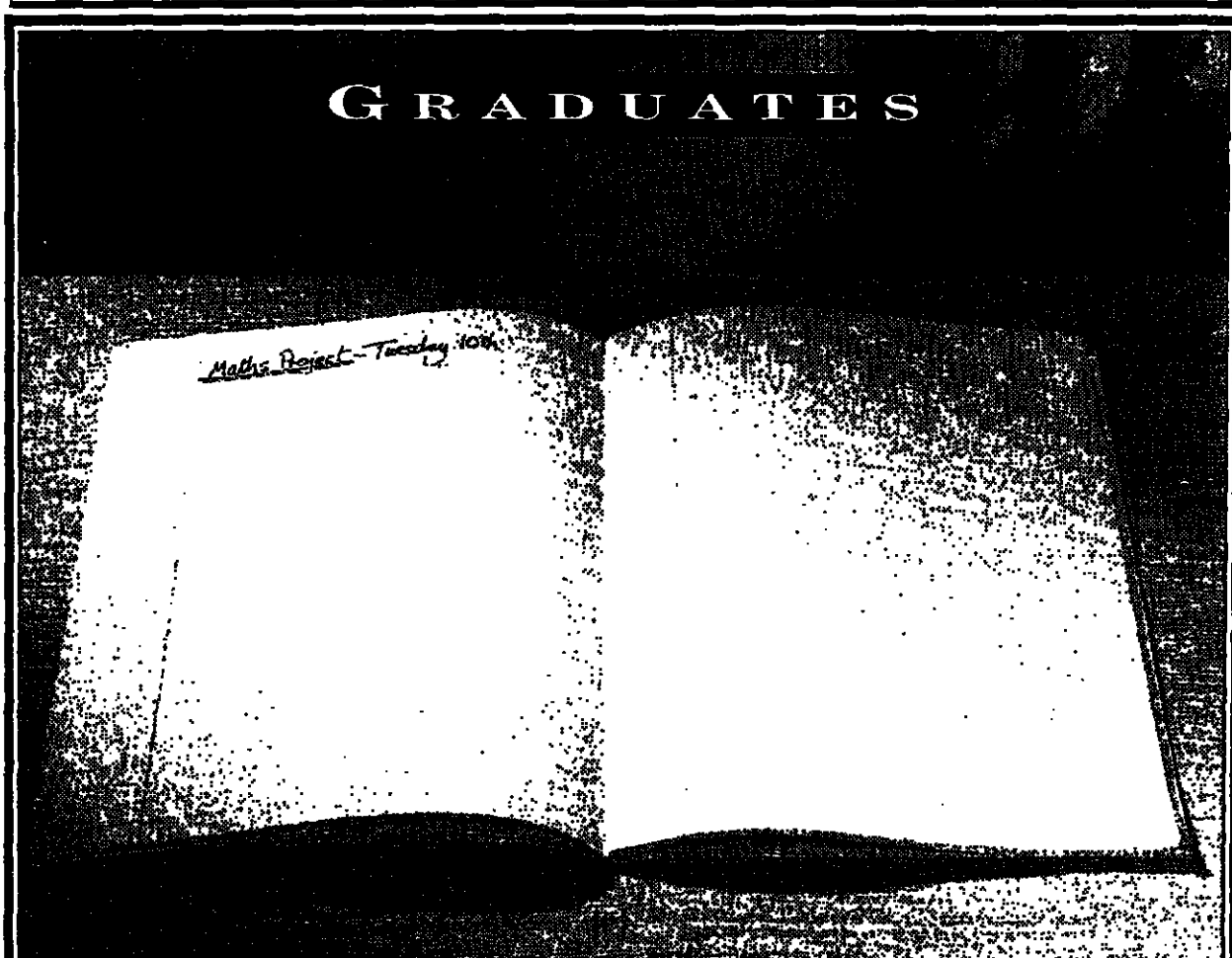
This summer's national curriculum test results, which were announced last week, offer further hope. Those attending Welsh-medium schools did better in the language than their counterparts elsewhere did in English.

However, the results obtained by English speakers in Welsh were disappointing. Little more than a third reached the expected standard. Sir Wyn attributes this poor showing to the fact that Welsh as a second language is a new subject for many of the pupils assessed.

"I expect that the results will improve gradually over the next two to three years," he says, "as Welsh becomes firmly established within the curriculum of all schools in Wales."

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TEACHING AS A CAREER

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Full-year results should show Wellcome in robust health

STRONG drug sales should help Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group headed by Sir Alistair Frame, chairman, to unveil a healthy 24 per cent jump in full-year profits.

On Wednesday, the company will report its first set of figures since July's move by the Wellcome Trust, the medical charitable foundation, to reduce its stake in Wellcome from 73.5 per cent to 40 per cent, raising nearly £2.2 billion.

An outstanding performance from Wellcome's best-selling Zovirax anti-viral drug should help final pre-tax profits advance to £500 million, against £403 million last time, according to Andrew Porter at Nikko, the Japanese securities house. Market forecasts range from £500 million to £510 million.

Mr Porter expects earnings of 35.7p a share, against 29.3p last time, and a dividend of 12.5p (10p) for the year.

Sales of Zovirax, the anti-herpes drug, are predicted to grow by at least 23 per cent to about £580 million, with a good performance likely from Japan. Zovirax will benefit from wider use in the treatment of shingles and there will be interest in the impact of the drug's launch in America for the treatment of chicken pox and the possibility that it will be launched over the counter.

The forecast is that Wellcome's Retrovir (AZT), which is used to combat Aids, saw sales increase by about 20 per cent to £212 million, benefiting from wider and earlier use in the treatment of HIV, the Aids virus. Retrovir's growth should continue, despite increasing competition from other Aids drugs.

TODAY

Interims: Moss Bros.
Finals: International Media Communications.
Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (August).

TOMORROW

Blenheim Group, the trade exhibitions organiser, is ex-

pected to report a rise in interim pre-tax profits to £33 million (£28.3 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. An increased interim dividend of 2.7p (2.3p) is predicted.

Analysts expect Bradford Property Trust, one of Britain's largest residential landlords, to turn in first-half pre-tax profits of £10.6 million, against £11.2 million last time.

Pressac Holdings, the electrical and electronic components maker, is expected to report a slight dip in final pre-tax profits to about £1.7 million (£1.82 million), although the dividend should be held at 2.4p.

Interims: Blenheim Group, Bradford Property Trust, British Syphon Industries, Jupiter Tyndal Group, NEC Corp, Wamford Investments.
Finals: Brioport & Gundry, Gencor, New Frontiers Development Trust, Pressac Holdings.
Economic statistics: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (third quarter), CBI industrial trends survey (October).

WEDNESDAY

Marks and Spencer, the international clothing and food retailer should buck the depressed conditions affecting so many other retailers with another solid performance.

M&S, Britain's biggest clothing retailer, should have weathered the recession much better than its retailing rivals thanks to the strength of its balance sheet and stringent cost controls. The absence of exceptional charges and a strong European contribution should help interim pre-tax profits to advance by 16 per cent to £250 million, according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £245 million to £265 million. An interim dividend of 2.3p (2.1p) is expected. Analysts will pay close attention to United Kingdom sales growth and margins.

Interims: Abstract New Thal Investment Trust, Barm Holdings, Black Leisure Group, Castle Hill International, Jackson Group, Lendu Holdings, Marks and Spencer, SKF Group (Q3), Securities Trust of Scotland, Shikoh (D), Telegraph, United Energy, Wai Kwong Shipping Holdings. Finals: Majestic Investments, Wellcome.

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (September), bricks and cement production and deliveries (third quarter).

THURSDAY

Imperial Chemical Industries, chaired by Sir Denis Henderson, is still considered by many to be a barometer of British industry, but the chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant's third-quarter figures are unlikely to provide much cheer for the City.

Depressed demand during a difficult summer and a weak dollar will take their toll on ICI's profits. Hoare Govett has pencilled in third-quarter pre-tax profits nearly halved to £100 million (£196 million), giving £520 million (£703 million) for the nine months.

Market forecasts range from £520 million to £550 million. Analysts will also be looking for an update on ICI's demerger plans following recent concern that there may be delays in the proposed break-up of the group's biotechnology and bulk chemicals businesses.

Interims: Imperial Chemical Industries (Q3), Howe Evans Investments.
Finals: Contra-Cyclical Investment

FRIDAY

Interim pre-tax profits at Reed International, the publishing and information group, are expected to climb to £86 million (£85.3 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew.

Market forecasts range from £86 million to £92 million. Cost savings will have been offset by continued weak advertising revenue. The interims might coincide with publication of a shareholders' circular giving details on the planned merger with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group.

Interims: French Connection, Gresham House, Investors Capital Trust, Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), Reed International, Finis: British Assets Trust (Q4), Manganese Bronze, TR Far East Income Trust.

PHILIP PANGALOS



The right chemistry: Sir Alistair Frame will report excellent sales of Wellcome's anti-viral and anti-Aids drugs

Recession curtails level of entrants to Stock Exchange

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE current wave of economic gloom and uncertainty has severely dented activity in new issues on the Stock Exchange, according to a survey by KPMG Peat Marwick, one of Britain's leading accountancy and management consultancy firms.

Figures from KPMG show that there were only 19 new entrants to the main market in the third quarter of this year, with only one entrant to the Unlisted Securities Market. There were no new issues at all last month as the latest wave of economic uncertainty battered new listings. This compares with 26 new entrants to the main market in the third quarter of last year, with two entrants to the USM. The second quarter this year saw 18 new entrants to the main market and two to the USM.

Neil Austin, head of new issues in KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "The dearth of new issues in September is not surprising. Such timing would mean a lead up through the holiday period, which is always unpopular, and there is an increasing polarisation away from the summer for all new issues."

"The generally lower level of activity, however, is set to continue as long as the current crises in the economy continue and as long as companies

continue to feel unsure of predicting their own future performance — a prerequisite to flotation — against such a background."

"From my experience, I can say that there are currently a significant number of companies looking to plan their flotation. Companies needing to raise funds in the next 12 to 18 months, particularly MBO [management buyout] companies needing to repay debt and private companies looking for funds for expansion, are increasingly attracted to the stock market."

"However, while plans are being put into place, the launch date may be put on hold until the first definite signs of an upturn."

On the future of small companies within the stock market, Mr Austin said: "There has been much debate about whether the stock market is only suitable for large companies. There is undoubtedly still a place for the smaller company — the key is a combination of high quality management, excellent prospects and enough shares to interest market-makers. The days of the smaller company, perhaps worth £15 million to £20 million, floating but only letting 10 per cent or so of its shares on to the market are gone."

Next in row over bond

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

A DISPUTE over the redemption of Next's £100 million Euroconvertible bond issue has focused attention on a series of such innovative cash-raising exercises, made at the stock market's peak, that are approaching their first redemption dates.

One Next bondholder has complained that the company did not inform holders of their rights before the due date this month and that he has thus lost his chance to convert the bond into cash. The bond was issued in September 1987, with a five-year put option allowing holders to redeem at 133p for every £1 of the issue price.

The company counters that most bondholders were aware of the redemption date and duly cashed in their bonds. Because some are bearer bonds,

making it impossible to identify the owner, Next says there can be no requirement to inform even those holders who can be traced. Because of the need to treat all shareholders equally, some observers believe a company that only notifies some holders could leave itself open to legal action from people who lose out.

If holders miss a redemption date they have to wait possibly a decade until the next. An issue by Hillsdown Holdings is due in December, and others from Smith & Nephew and Cosman are redeemable next year. There are about 60 similar issues in circulation, many with put options, allowing the investor either to convert into shares or cash out. This can be done after five years, as a rule, although longer terms exist.

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COMMENT

An expert view of the energy muddle

The debate over Britain's energy muddle, or "Who killed King Coal?" as it might now be subtitled, becomes more bizarre by the day. There have been so many U-turns that it is by no means clear who has the roles of poacher or gamekeeper, or whether the spokesman now approaching is the same person who passed by a few moments ago, travelling in the opposite direction. Consider the following remarks on the subject of power privatisation in Britain which have just appeared in the leading US financial magazine, *Institutional Investor*. "The full benefits [of privatisation] have yet to come. Where competition is not now present, additional measures are necessary." And who might have uttered these apparently contradictory opinions on the effectiveness of the structures imposed by government on the privatised power industry? "Competition will take time to develop. Major generators are likely, therefore, to retain a large market share for some time."

The quotations are from Professor Stephen Littlechild, the man responsible for regulating Britain's electricity industry. They are not, though they certainly might be, from a coal industry lobbyist, an MP with a mining constituency or a trade union leader. In a brief article clearly intended to be descriptive rather than analytical, Mr Littlechild has more harsh things to say on the legacy of Cecil Parkinson and John Wakeham, the politicians most directly responsible for the shape of the electricity business today.

Of the pool pricing system designed to bring some free market elements into the industry, he writes: "Problems have arisen in the pool, in that the major generators have been able to influence prices... in general, the pool should facilitate competition and improve options open to customers, generators and suppliers, rather than impose a straitjacket on the development of the market." In yet another observation in what is basically an optimistic assessment of the future state of the industry, Mr Littlechild expresses concern that the present system of price controls allows the regional electricity companies (RECs) to pass on rising costs directly, giving them little incentive to contain costs.

As the trade and industry select committee gathers to review plans for rationalising coal production and energy policy generally, its members should dwell for a moment on the views of the electricity regulator. There are few better placed expert witnesses to support the view that privatisation was flawed in that it did not immediately introduce sufficient competition, especially in generating. Indeed, in a second interview this weekend, Mr Littlechild is quoted as saying despairingly that he is not convinced that there ever will be enough diversity in generation. High on the committee's list must be a re-examination of the industry's structure, deferral of the coal closures and preparation of a direct sale of British Coal's unwanted assets. Anywhere but the public sector, management that planned to close operations before attempting to raise some income by way of a sale would be aggressively questioned.

Closure before even trying a sale appears profligate at a time when public spending is under pressure. Such steps would make sense only in terms of the political imperative to privatise coal. The government is close to giving the impression that it wishes to privatise regardless, thus reinforcing the lack of competition in power generation. It is tough for politicians to admit they were wrong. But with U-turns now politically correct — so far, at least, as this government is concerned — the climate is more favourable. A root and branch review of energy policy will by no means save all condemned mines, indeed that is a hopeless cause. But some may continue, one hopes in a more competitive power industry, which delivers lower prices to its customers.

Anatole Kaletsky talks to the billion-dollar brain behind much of the Black Wednesday speculation that sterling would quit the ERM

George Soros is an intensely intellectual man who spends much of his time in eastern Europe as a political and educational philanthropist. He is also the world's biggest currency speculator. In the two weeks leading to Black Wednesday, Mr Soros engaged the British government in the highest-stakes game of poker in history.

He bet \$10 billion that Mr Major would fail in his irrevocable and "over-riding objective" — to keep sterling above its floor in the ERM. Everyone now knows that Mr Major lost his side of the gamble. On Saturday, in a long interview at his house in London, Mr Soros decided to describe his side of this poker game.

Over the weekend Mr Soros was identified in America and in the *Daily Mail* in London as "the man who made a billion out of the pound's collapse". With an embarrassed wince that could not entirely hide some mischievous self-satisfaction, Mr Soros conceded at the outset that this was broadly true.

"We did short a lot of sterling and we did make a lot of money, because our funds are so large. We must have been the biggest single factor in the market in the days before the ERM fell apart. Our total position by Black Wednesday had to be worth almost \$10 billion. We planned to sell more than that. In fact, when Norman Lamont said just before the devaluation that he would borrow nearly \$15 billion to defend sterling, we were amused because that was about how much we wanted to sell."

"But things moved faster than we expected and we didn't manage to build up the full position. So a billion is about right as an estimate of the profit, though dollars, not pounds."

After checking with his New York office, Mr Soros gives a more precise figure. By the middle of last week, the running profits on his sterling positions were around \$950 million. His gains have continued to mount since Black Wednesday because he has not yet bought back all the pounds he sold, believing currencies tend to overshoot before they hit bottom.

Unlike academic economists, Mr Soros does not think currency speculation is needed to pull market prices to realistic levels. In fact, his belief that financial markets are often driven by irrational psychology, is, he says, the key to his own success.

"Speculation can be very harmful, especially in currency markets. But measures to stop it, such as exchange controls, usually do even more harm. Fixed exchange-rate systems are also flawed, because they eventually fall apart. In fact, any exchange-rate system is flawed and the longer it



Betting on a certainty: George Soros was never in any doubt that sterling would leave the ERM

exists the greater the flaws become. The only escape is to have no exchange-rate system at all, but a single currency in Europe, as in the US. It would put speculators like me out of business, but I would be delighted to make that sacrifice."

But why single Britain out in the attack on the ERM last month?

Mr Soros notes in passing that he was also the leading seller of Italian lira, but says that fundamentally the timing of Britain's ERM entry was to blame. Britain went into the ERM in the midst of recession, while Germany was experiencing its post-unification boom. The position, he says, was unsustainable as the British recession deepened. The longer the government held out against a realignment, the bigger — and surer — were the gains for speculators.

Just how big were those gains? Mr Soros's figure of \$950 million was not his personal profit, but that of the four funds he manages — the \$4 billion Quantum Fund and three smaller offshoots now worth another \$2 billion. Mr Soros's personal stake in these funds, whose shares are not quoted on any exchanges but are traded in London by Kleinwort Benson, is about one third.

In addition to the \$950 million the funds made by selling sterling, there were other gains from the turmoil in the ERM. Mr Soros sold lire and bought German bonds. He took big long positions in British, German and French interest rate futures. And he bought the London stock market, hedging this with sales of German

and French shares. The week after the British devaluation, Mr Soros made further gains by siding with the French authorities against speculators who were attacking the franc.

In all, the funds made about \$2 billion. But to produce such immense profits, Mr Soros had to take considerable risks. Why was he ready to stake his entire wealth on the failure of a policy to which the British government was irrevocably committed?

Mr Soros gives three answers. First, he was confident that the Bundesbank wanted devaluations in Britain and Italy, but not in France. "I felt safe betting with the Bundesbank. The Bundesbank clearly wanted the lira and pound devalued, but it was prepared to defend the franc. In the end, the score was Bundesbank, 3-nil; speculators, 2-1. I did even better than some others by sticking to the Bundesbank's side."

Second, the depth of the British recession made Mr Major's commitment to DM2.95 untenable.

Could the prime minister have made his determination clearer by raising British interest rates before Black Wednesday? Mr Soros laughs: "Absolute nonsense, poppycock. If interest rates had been raised, it would have encouraged us to speed up our sales, because the process was speeding up. In fact, we had not expected the devaluation to happen until the weekend. But when interest rates were put up on Black Wednesday, we realised we could not afford

to wait any longer. We had to accelerate our selling to build up our position. Time was running out."

The third reason why Mr Soros was prepared to bet his entire fortune was because that is how his fund operates. The huge sale of sterling was by no means the biggest position Mr Soros has taken. Earlier this year, for example, he borrowed vast sums of money to buy \$17 billion worth of Japanese bonds and simultaneously short-sell the Tokyo stock market.

Mr Soros takes these immense risks because that is the only way to achieve high returns for himself and other Quantum investors. The entire \$5 billion to \$6 billion in his four funds has grown from an initial investment of \$4.8 million in 1969. This thousand-fold capital appreciation has made it possible for Quantum to claim in its annual reports that "no other investment fund has ever produced comparable results".

Mr Soros has made some huge losses — he was the biggest single loser from Black Monday in 1987, dropping \$650 million when he wrongly calculated that a short position in Japanese stocks would protect him from losses on Wall Street. More recently he admits to having traded badly in the Italian bond market. But he has been right more often than wrong. In fact, in its 22 years Quantum has suffered only one annual fall, in 1981.

So what are the economic and political prospects on which Mr Soros now plans to bet?

He thinks America will recover

slowly, while the German and French economies are now "falling out of bed". As a result, interest rates will decline sharply in Europe and the dollar will continue to rise.

With last month's turmoil subsiding, Italy will soon rejoin the ERM, and if the Maastricht Treaty is ratified, which he expects, the creation of a single currency and the unification of Europe will "have a good chance". Ironically, the main financial implication will be that economic convergence, under the aegis of the ERM, will resume. Even in Italy, the worst of the inflation and fiscal crisis is now over, he believes.

For Britain, however, rejoining the ERM in the near future would be a big mistake. Mr Soros believes that Britain is now preparing to follow sensible policy, after Mr Major's U-turn in favour of growth. He says investors would see a wage freeze in the public sector as an excellent anchor against inflation to replace the ERM for the time being.

"A 2 per cent pay policy would be less positive but would probably do the trick. Britain has a chance to engineer economic recovery without rekindling inflation. The main aim of policy must be to stop asset deflation, especially in housing."

To do this interest rates must be brought down further and sterling allowed to fall further, at least in the short term.

"If interest rates are cut quickly, the decline in sterling will probably accelerate, but if they do it slowly the ultimate low will be lower than in the first case," he says. The only scenario on which sterling might not fall any further against the mark is if the Bundesbank cuts German rates even more aggressively than expected and Britain moves down in line. To cover this possibility, Mr Soros says he now prefers to short sterling against the dollar, rather than the mark.

Betting on a gradual recovery, Mr Soros has made big investments in the London stock market. He notes, however, that prices have risen so far that recovery is already partly discounted. His holdings are therefore concentrated in property-related shares, such as construction companies, insurers and mortgage lenders. Once the recession is over, Mr Soros expects Britain to rejoin the ERM and the move towards a common currency in Europe.

But why is Mr Soros so confident about a united Europe, given widespread hostility to Maastricht and the opposition of the Bundesbank to losing control of the German mark? Europe must — and probably will — unify not for economic reasons, but to prevent war, he believes.

"I expect a period of tremendous turbulence in eastern Europe and this turmoil outside the gates will create the momentum for European union. Nationalism in the east is now so strong that only a united Europe can counteract it. Unless Europe holds together, war will engulf most of the former Soviet Union."

As for the German reluctance to give up the mark, Mr Soros concludes: "If Maastricht is ratified, maybe I will even bet against the Bundesbank."

BUSINESS LETTERS

The Gatwick alternative needs Dan-Air's continued operation

From Mr John Cox
Sir, In his letter on the implications of a "rescue" of Dan-Air by British Airways (Business Letters, October 20), Mr Gray makes a number of points on behalf of other British airlines.

From the consumers' point of view the issues are not as clear. It is important that users have a choice of airport as well as airlines; and if Dan-Air were to disappear from Gatwick, travellers preferring to fly from there rather than Heathrow would be disadvantaged accordingly. Moreover, Dan-Air's failure would inevitably have a damaging impact in the services provided by other airlines at Gatwick, since, as Mr Gray says, it has more slots than any other carrier.

Anything which further damaged Gatwick's credibility as a major scheduled airport, following the failure of Air Europe last year, could also have a knock-on effect on the prospects for Stansted, Air UK's home base.

Thus, whilst we prefer to see

Dan-Air go to another airline, if BA's involvement is the only way to preserve the services which Dan-Air provides so well, the balance of advantage to consumers is to allow BA to proceed. Sheer size does not in itself give rise to unfair competition; and in any event the European Community would have weapons at its disposal to move quickly against any predatory behaviour.

We too are strong supporters of the Government's multi-airline policy and we welcome the additional opportunities

which the liberalisation of the EC air transport market from next January will provide — but we see no inconsistency between these policies and a BA takeover of Dan-Air provided that the outcome is adequately policed. AUC will monitor what follows quite as closely as competitor airlines. Yours faithfully, JOHN COX, Chairman, Air Transport Users Committee, Kingsway House, 103 Kingsway, WC2.

Ignoring the interests of occupational pension scheme members

From Dr David Blake

Sir, Mr T. G. Campion's disappointment with the consultation document recently published by Professor Goode's Pension Law Review Committee (Business Letters, October 13) may be greater than he fears.

Not only is it directed at the few thousand professionals who make their living from the pensions industry, it appears to ignore the interests of most of the 11 million members of occupational pension schemes by disregarding the alternative to such schemes. As I demonstrated in my recent article in *The Times* (it's time

to take our pensions out of the hands of employers, September 18), the vast majority of employees in today's world of increasing labour mobility would benefit from having personal pension schemes. I trust that Professor Goode's committee will see sufficient flexibility in its terms of reference to consider these alternatives.

In addition, Mr Roger Westwood's letter of October 15 contains a misunderstanding of my proposal to unite final salary schemes. The relationship between final salary and money purchase schemes is clear. A final salary scheme is simply a money purchase

scheme combined with two options: a put option on the underlying assets in the pension fund written by the sponsor to the member, and a corresponding call option written by the member to the sponsor. In each case, the exercise price of the option is equal to a fixed proportion (with a maximum of two thirds) of final salary. At retirement, one of these options is bound to be exercised. My proposal simply converts a final salary scheme into a unified money purchase scheme. However, there is no reason one or both of these options could not be attached to my scheme as long as they

are correctly priced. But there is no cause for Mr Westwood's "outrage" that personal pension providers be required to build such options into their products: final salary scheme providers have been doing it, apparently unknowingly, for years.

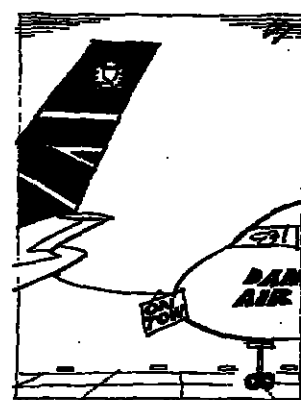
Yours faithfully, DAVID BLAKE, Birbeck College, University of London, Department of Economics, 7-15 Gresse Street, W1.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Charitable sex appeal

CHRIS Munro, managing director of Robert Fleming Securities, has been doing his bit to boost sales of Madonna's book, *Sex*, flogging the £20 book to colleagues and clients for £50 to raise money for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, the charity chosen this year by The October Club, a charitable fundraising organisation. Among those ready to proffer £50 were Lindsay Rutherford, managing director of LET Leisure, and Larry Maddy, a Fleming salesman. Munro admits, however, that he did not buy the book himself and that, according to Books Etc, the Broadgate bookshop, he is a typical City male. Doreen Lamont, shop assistant, says: "Lots of people sent their assistants to buy it for them and when they paid for it they were all very good humoured. I suppose they were laughing to hide their embarrassment. Their embarrassment, however, was not sufficient to stop them rushing in their hundreds to buy a copy. 'We were



sent 300 copies on Wednesday morning and we had sold out by 1 pm," Lamont continues. "Most of them just referred to it as 'the Madonna book' because they are all so frightfully British they couldn't actually say 'Sex', could they?"

WHETHER through desperation or not, company executives and stock market analysts are becoming increasingly witty as the recession rolls on. Roger Hurn, chief executive of Smiths Industries, the aerospace and medical group, says analysts tell him that Smiths shares are not regarded as a "recovery" stock because "you have not been to hospital". Meanwhile, Jeremy Lancaster, chairman of Wolseley, the building products group, speaking of Britain's economic prospects, told the financial Press this week: "You can read the tea leaves as well as anybody. The trouble is, the tea leaves seem to have sunk."

Maturity value

ANDREW Longhurst, Britain's highest paid building society chief executive, who re-

ceived £306,000 last year, is celebrating 25 years at the Cheltenham & Gloucester. Longhurst joined the society as a data processing manager when it did not own a single computer, had assets of £77.4 million and was 15th in the league table. Now it is worth £15 billion and has climbed to sixth, while the number of societies has dropped by two thirds. This summer, Longhurst, 53, single-handedly forced the government to reduce interest rates on National Savings' new bond by putting up the mortgage rate. His "back to the knifings" policy at the C&G has been equally successful and, as part of its anniversary celebrations on Friday, he was presented with a painting of a woman darning socks by a fire.

Star guest

A STAR is born — or so say those who heard an impromptu performance given by David Clasen, 27, a Morgan Grenfell corporate financier, last week for Vardon, the London Dungeon and marina group. In the midst of it all, Clasen leapt to his feet and started to sing. Alex Sandberg of College Hill, Vardon's PR firm, enthuses: "He's got a wonderful voice, a cross between Chris de Burgh and Bruce Springsteen. We were stunned. We want to manage him in his new career." Clasen admits that an agent might come in useful. His semi-professional group, Voice Traffic, which specialises in 1970s and 1980s hits, is still seeking Christmas bookings. Clasen says: "We are in a capella group, which means only voices. We've been on every

national radio station and Opportunity Knocks but we're short on bookings right now."

Powell in public

DESPITE his well known, anti-European views, octogenarian Enoch Powell has not spoken out in recent weeks. Powell, who makes few public appearances these days, has agreed to two engagements. One, as befits a distinguished classicist, is to deliver a speech in Greek to the Oxford Union in January. The other, in keeping with his former job as financial secretary to the Treasury in 1957-8, is to speak at the 14th housing finance seminar for UK building societies on November 13, at Barber Surgeon's Hall. David Bulk, chairman of Prebon Yamane, the money broker, previously Babcock Fulton Prebon, is hosting the event and is delighted to have such a controversial speaker. "Our directors have known Enoch for some time," Bulk confides. "He's always worth listening to. I'd be surprised if it's not a sparky speech." The other orators will be Peter Jay, the BBC's economics editor, a fierce critic of the government, and Peter Wood, finance director of Barclays Bank.

WRETCHED holders of the Isosceles stub — shares that were issued in part payment for the takeover of the Gateway supermarket chain — are being quoted "a Cabinet to two" by Goldman Sachs. That means Goldman will sell for 2p a share but what is this Cabinet buying price? A salesman explained: "It means the stub is completely worthless."

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BBC1

6.00 **Casualty** (83084) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (27895423)
9.05 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (8785152) 9.45 **Ross King** Quiz show (s) (8955585)
10.00 **News** regional news and weather (8400751) 10.05 **Playdays** For the very young (s) (7140591)
10.30 **Good Morning...** with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (77583152)
12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Judi Sifers is joined by actresses Barbara Flynn and Sheila Hancock. Also on hand are the Chippendales (s) (8058820)
12.55 **Regional News and weather** (53384152)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton (Casualty Weather (86882)
1.30 **Neighbours** (822388) (s) (8057538) 1.50 **Going For Gold**. General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The questionmaster is the gregarious Henry Kelly (8057535)
2.15 **Paradise**. Western drama series (718005) 3.00 **Family Affairs** presented by Gloria Hunniford and Carol Keating (5220)
3.30 **Disco Detective**. BBC Cartoons (8357423) 3.45 **PC Pinkerton**. A cartoon (s) (8057538) 3.50 **Wildabout**. Violet Berlin and Mark Evans, a vet, examine the ways some animals hide from their enemies (s) (8054955) 4.05 **Tas With Grandma**. Puppet series. The guest is Quentin Blake (7282807) 4.15 **Gordon T. Gopher** (s) (7271591) 4.25 **The New York Bear Show** (s) (7295171) 4.35 **Peter Pan and the Pirates**. (Casualty) (s) (7006713)
4.55 **Newsnight** (822388) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. Animal news reports from Hungary on the environmental threat to the River Danube, now far from blue. (Casualty) (s) (148133)
5.35 **Neighbours** (s) (8057538) 5.45 **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anne Ford and Chris Lowe. (Casualty) Weather (172794) 6.15 **Regional News Magazines** (713) Northern Ireland: Neighbours (700) Eldorado. (Casualty) (s) (7201)
7.30 **Watchdog Special: If Only I'd Known What to Do**. Advice for those people who have been at the scene of accidents but were powerless to help through ignorance (s). (Casualty) (897)
8.00 **On the Up**. Teatime comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire with a problem marriage. (Casualty) (s) (3249)



Feeling the pinch: Ray Winstone, Carol Harrison (8.30pm)

8.30 **Get Back**.
● **CHOICE**: From Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, creators of *Birds of a Feather*, comes another tale of the working class new rich down on their luck. Billed as a "recession comedy", *Get Back* is the story of two brothers who made their pile during the Thatcherite enterprise culture. But like many a small businessman in the depressed Nineties, Martin (Ray Winstone) has gone bust. The Rolls and the posh house have gone, and Martin is forced to decamp with his tart wife (Carol Harrison) and teenage daughter to dad's gritty council flat. Brother Albert (Liam Lamb) is too mean to help. As in *Birds*, the dialogue is sardonic, riddled with crude sexual innuendo and, despite that, often very funny. But it is a good question whether we are supposed to laugh with these vulgar and rather dreadful people or to laugh at them. (Casualty) (5084)
9.00 **News** with Maryline Lewis. (Oracle) Regional news and weather (822388)
9.30 **Panorama: The Comeback Kid**. Julian O'Halloran reports on how presidential favourite Bill Clinton has survived the campaign despite the attacks on his character (434317)
10.10 **Film 92 with Barry Norman**. Among the films reviewed are *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Unlawful Entry* and *Mon Père Ce héros* (539530) Northern Ireland: 29 Live: Wales: Between Ourselves (84046) 10.40 **Marques** (84152) 11.40 **World of the Words** (43713)
11.15 **The Victorian Kitchen Garden**. Series following the restoration of a walled garden to its former glory (r). (Casualty) (349538) Northern Ireland: Come Dancing: Wales: Film 92
11.45 **Carreening Ahead** (s) (331510) Northern Ireland: 11.50-12.20 **Carreening Ahead**: Wales: The Victorian Kitchen Garden (822388) 12.25 **Wales: Carreening Ahead**

BBC2

8.00 **Breakfast News** (4824881) 8.15 **Westminster** (4814404)
8.30 **Under Sail**. Film of the 1984 run regatta in the German Baltic port of Flensburg (r) (8549442)
8.50 **A Week to Remember** (d/v). Pathe News clips from 1982 (803317) 9.00 **Holiday Outings**. Jimmy Mulville explores children's Paris (r) (2665201)
9.05 **Daytime On Two**. Educational programmes
2.00 **News and weather** followed by *Storyline* (r) (31270249) 2.15 **Regional Westminster Programmes** (r) (1772591) Northern Ireland: The Victorian Kitchen Garden 2.45 **Delhi Day**. The sights and sounds of the Indian city (r) (8164848)
3.00 **News and weather** (8946123) 3.05 **Songs of Praise** from Shrewsbury Abbey (r). (Casualty) (s) (1682581) 3.40 **A Week to Remember** (d/v). As 8.50am (2345539) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (2344423)
4.00 **Catchword**. The first of a new series of the word game (s) (626)
4.30 **World Scorable Championship**. Highlights from the final rounds of the first competition, held last year (r) (510)
5.00 **Japanese Grand Prix**. Highlights (r) (8607)
5.30 **Royal Gardens**. Roy Strong explores the horticultural legacy of King George IV (r). (Casualty) (820)
6.00 **The Addams Family** (d/v). Ghoulish humour based on the characters created in the New Yorker magazine cartoon series (Casualty) (232978)
6.25 **DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air**. American comedy series (232978) 6.50 **News** and weather (8946123) 7.00 **News** and weather (8946123) 7.05 **Liquid Television**. Last in the series of animation from around the world (428084)
7.50 **Staggering Stories of Ferdinand de Borgia**. Surreal series combining newscasts with the voices of Enn Reitel, John Glover, Kate Robbins and Suse Blake (r) (s) (482794)



Successful candidates: four medical students (8.10pm)

8.10 **Doctors To Be: Trial By Interview**.
● **CHOICE**: In 1984 BBC cameras followed seven aspiring medical students through their interviews at St Mary's Hospital in London. It made riveting television. Here we see the same young people, determined to impress but often floored by an awkward question. As soon as they had left the room we heard what the interviewing panel thought of them. The comments were not always flattering. Finally we had the verdicts: acceptance, rejection or a place on the waiting list. Much of this material is repeated tonight at the start of a new series which charts the progress of the successful candidates. By now they are junior doctors and, at least, are thoroughly disenchanted. Using these case histories the series promises to throw fascinating light on how we select and train for a demanding profession. (Casualty) (822201)
9.00 **Film: Love Is Never Silent** (1985) starring Mare Winningham. An Emmy Award-winning drama, shown as part of the Deaf Awareness Week, about a young woman who, throughout her childhood, has been the ears and the voice of her deaf parents. When she falls in love she finds that her happiness conflicts with their needs. Directed by Joseph Sargent. (Casualty) (1249)
10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman (477317)
11.15 **The Late Show**. Arts and media magazine (s) (170152)
11.55 **London Underground**. Stand-up comedy and music introduced by Denis Leary. Among those appearing tonight are Steve Coogan, the Higgins Boys and Gruber and Colin Cunn. Music is provided by Seal (244046) 12.25 **Wales: Carreening Ahead** (822388)

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ITV

6.00 **TV-am** (653030)
9.25 **Keynotes**. Music game hosted by Alistair Duffell (1559249) 9.55 **Thames News** (7165533)
10.00 **The Time...The Place...** Topical discussion programme (8473533)
10.35 **This Morning**. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes advice on emotional problems, recipes and the first of a series of master-classes for those wanting to make a career in the music business. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (2622538)
12.10 **Rosie and Jim**. Children's puppet series (r) (7603732)
12.30 **Luncheonette News** (Oracle) Weather (6301533) 1.05 **Thames News** (7165533)
1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama series (Oracle) (173423)
1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (172794)
2.15 **Thames Help**. Jackie Sprechley with advice on complaining effectively (164775) 2.45 **Facts and Fun** series presented by Fred Dineen, Carol Vorderman and Gareth Jones (4772201)
3.10 **ITV News** headlines (822388) 3.15 **Thames News** headlines (865510) 3.20 **The Young Doctors**. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (456775)
3.50 **Womans**. Animation (r) (2328249) 4.00 **The Sooty Show** with Matthew Corbett (s) (4725289) 4.25 **Beetlejuice** (r) (Oracle) (1702775) 4.50 **Home 2**. Facts and fun series presented by Fred Dineen, Carol Vorderman and Gareth Jones (4772201)
5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz game (4732572)
5.40 **Early Evening News** (Oracle) Weather (101317)
5.55 **Thames Help** (r) (848404)
6.00 **Home and Away** (r) (Oracle) (201)
6.30 **Thames News** (861)
7.00 **The Krypton Factor**. Gordon Burns with another round of the brain and brawn competition. Taking part in the test-of-memory playlet are Tony Slattery, Kate Puckridge and Roger Lloyd Pack (Oracle) (s) (2997)



First day as school cleaner: Peter Baldwin mopes (7.30pm)

7.30 **Coronation Street** (Oracle) (715)
8.00 **Strike It Lucky**. Game show hosted by the energetic Michael Barrymore. (Oracle) (s) (5317)
8.30 **World In Action**. True life. I'm a Doctor. An investigation uncovering serious breaches of medical and pharmaceutical guidelines among a large number of slimming clinics in the United Kingdom (9132)
9.00 **Soldier, Soldier: Lost and Found**. Drama series following the lives of men and women of the King's Fusiliers, based in Hong Kong. This week these are representations which come from a visit to a brother: Fusilier Rawlings becomes disenchanted with the army after being refused permission to marry, and Colonel Fortune's career is put on the line by his wife's decision to look after the child of illegal immigrants. (Casualty) (s) (4007)
10.00 **News at Ten**. (Oracle) Weather (86751) 10.30 **Thames News** (472323)
10.40 **Film: The Survivors** (1983) starring Walter Matthau and Robin Williams. Ernie Black comically about two disparate men who apprehend a robber and then face his revenge when he is released from prison on a technicality. Directed by Michael Ritchie (1054930)
12.30 **Entertainment UK**. Weekly leisure time guide (s) (85534)
1.30 **Sport AM**. John McEneaney makes Andre Agassi in a Seoul challenge match (96699)
2.30 **Film: The Last Shot** (1989) starring Robert Hossein, Charles Aznavour and Yveline. Routine French thriller about a notorious gangster being hunted by a special elite force under a childhood friend. Directed by Sergio Gobbi (81640)
4.30 **Music Special**. The first of a two-part concert featuring rhythm and blues stars of the 1960s including Booker T and the MGs, Phil Upchurch and Carla Thomas (s) (25038)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** (50737) Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Cartoons** (34084)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (38323)
9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (87930)
9.30 **Schools** (168143)
12.00 **Right to Reply**. General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley discusses Lynda La Plante's BBC drama *Crucial* (r). (Teletext) (s) (19274)
12.30 **Sesame Street**. Early-learning series (23255)
1.30 **Kaboodle**. Children's entertainment (r) (25688)
2.00 **Film: The Brothers Rico** (1957, b/w) starring Richard Conte. Moody gangster drama, adapted from a Simon novel, about a former syndicate accountant who learns that his two criminal brothers are on the hit list of a rival gang. With James Darren and Paul Picerni. Directed by Phil Karlson (771339)
3.40 **The Three Stooges in Playing the Furies** (1937, b/w) (662735)
4.00 **Spirit of Trees**. The first of an eight-part series about the trees of Britain, presented by the environmentalist Dick Warner (r). (Teletext) (794)
4.30 **Fifteen To One**. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz (s) (878)
5.00 **Late Late Show**. Britain's topical chat and music show hosted by Gay Byrne (s) (2510)
6.00 **Streetside**. Drama series about a team of London cycle couriers (171)
6.30 **The Wonder Years**. American comedy series about growing up in the 1960s (r) (423)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) Weather (555607)
7.50 **Comment** (737404)
8.00 **Brookside**. Suburban Merseyside soap (Casualty) (s) (6959)
8.30 **Deamond's**. General comedy series set in a Peckham barber's, starring Norman Beaton (8794)



Emergency call: psychiatrist Dr Lawrence Ratna (9.00pm)

9.00 **Cutting Edge: Breakdown**.
● **CHOICE**: The excellent documentary strand returns with a portrait of Britain's only 24-hour psychiatric emergency service, based at Barnet Hospital in north London. The cameras follow five cases, demonstrating the flavour and variety of the unit's work. They include a young mother roaming the streets with her children, convinced they will be taken away from her. There is a woman who has locked herself in a bedroom, refusing to eat, drink or talk. The toughest assignment is a violent man who has to be restrained by the police, the saddest an elderly widow who has gone to pieces after the death of his wife. The response is impressive and the results encouraging. One of the team, psychiatrist Dr Lawrence Ratna, says his job is often about loving the unlovable. It is a disturbing film but also a constructive one. (Casualty) (2240)
10.00 **A Bit of a Do**. David Nobbs's comedy drama series starring David Jason, Gwen Taylor and Nicola Pagett (r). (Teletext) (5336)
11.00 **The "Other" Americas**. New World, Old Order.
● **CHOICE**: Argentina entered the 20th century as one of the world's richest countries but is now among the poorest. The film links this economic failure to the inability to establish a cohesive national identity. The approach is historical, showing how a powerful landed elite, usually backed by the military, has fostered for supremacy with the urban working class. The biggest assertion of working class power came under Juan Peron, though after his death the landowners and military soon reasserted themselves. The decision to invade the Falklands is seen as an attempt to unite the country around a popular cause. Now President Menem is trying to square the circle, a former Peronist who has abandoned Peronist principles. This even-handed survey maintains the standard of a thoughtful series (s) (96249)
12.00 **Film: Jericho** (1991) starring Cosme Cortazar. The *Latin America* Cinema season continues with a Venezuelan drama about a 16th-century band of conquistadores brutally repressing the native population. English subtitles. Directed by Luis Alberto Lavata (326992). Ends at 1.35am

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
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Provisions likely to reach £1.5bn

Regulator eases line on building society losses

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE Building Societies Commission, which regulates Britain's building societies, is taking a more relaxed view of the growing number of societies operating at a loss.

The commission has told societies there is nothing in the Building Societies Act to prevent them reporting a loss and using their reserves to cover the shortfall. Until recently, the commission commonly forced loss-makers to merge with larger and financially stronger societies.

This shift will come as a relief to many societies that are currently analysing figures for the first three quarters of the year and assessing how their

■ Building society regulators are more tolerant of losses. The housing slump may be easing

1992 profits have been hit by the fall in house prices, rises in the number of homeowners in arrears and provisions for bad debts. Many more societies will report losses for the year. Dr John Wrigglesworth, of UBS Phillips & Drew, estimates that the top 20 societies will make total provisions 25 per cent higher this year at £1.5 billion.

Only one society, the Lancasterian, has been allowed to report a loss without arrang-

ing a merger first. Last year, it would have had to report another loss but was then propelled into the arms of the Northern Rock.

In such mergers the commission likes the stronger party to be at least ten times the size of the troubled society and if possible 15 times larger. Otherwise the merger could weaken the larger society.

Last November, the Town & Country was about to report a loss of £10 million and was forced into a merger with the Woolwich, despite having strong reserves. In the event the Woolwich, whose own profits fell last year by 20 per cent, reported that the T & C lost £43 million in 1991 after provisions of £60 million.

The speed with which the chief executives of the top five societies were brought together to fix up a partner for the T & C convinced many that the commission would not allow a loss to be reported.

Few of the large societies are keen to "rescue" small societies and there are not enough to go round if several were to be financially embarrassed at the same time. The chief executive of one top ten building society that has been involved in a messy merger, suggests one solution would be for a society in trouble to be broken up. There is nothing in the Act to prevent this, he points out and it would allow societies to share the pain and to take the bits of a society that were useful to them.

While all the large societies are expected to end the year in profit, those with a South East bias are still having to increase provisions despite falling interest rates. An indication of the problems came in the figures from the Nationwide. The second largest society's year ends in April, three months after most other societies. It made provisions of £236 million and profits fell 29 per cent to £202 million. The Leeds will be the first to report for 1992 next month. A report last week from Fitch, the American analyst, said provisions would continue to rise in 1992 and into next year.



Pruning practice: Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman who appears before the trade committee on Wednesday, in his garden yesterday

Government MPs prepare to launch energy enquiry

By ROSS TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Government may raise £5bn on BT shares

By PATRICIA TIEHAN

THE government is likely to put its final 22.5 per cent of BT up for sale next July, raising up to £5 billion.

The decision, due to be confirmed early next year, will coincide with a delay in the sale of its remaining 40 per cent stakes in National Power and PowerGen, which had been expected to begin in the spring.

The last BT share sale was completed in December 1991. The government raised £5.4 billion from the sale of 25.5 per cent. According to the prospectus, the government was restricted from selling any more shares until the third and final share payments on March 2 next year.

In April, the government announced its intention to raise £8 billion this year in privatisation proceeds and £5.5 billion in 1993-4 and 1994-5. The cash helps reduce the size of the public sector borrowing requirement.

A Treasury spokesman said the £8 billion target is likely to be comfortably met from the third BT tranche in March and the redemption of £1 billion of privatised company debt likely soon.

The final BT share sale would help the Treasury meet the £5.5 billion target for the next financial year, with the proceeds of two, or potentially all three instalments.

The sale of the government's stakes in National Power and PowerGen hangs on the findings of the review of plans to shut 31 coal mines and on the negotiations for a five-year coal deal between British Coal and the two generators.

THE enquiry into Britain's energy policy gets under way tomorrow when Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, appears as the first witness before the Commons trade and industry select committee. The hearings, under the chairmanship of Richard Cahn, the Labour MP for Sheffield Central, are expected to be the most closely followed for years. Even though the 11-man committee has six Conservative members to Labour's five, the government has no grounds to believe its policy of pit closures will find approval. Among a cast of members well-known for their robust views, Michael Clark, the former chairman of the now-defunct energy select

committee stands out. The conservative MP for Rochford was one of six Tories who voted against the government on last Wednesday's crucial parliamentary debate over the plans, announced by Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman, who appears before the committee on Wednesday, to close 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs.

Under Dr Clark, the energy committee produced two scathing reports drawing attention to failures in the post-privatisation electricity market and their implications for coal.

The first, published in July 1991, called for a national energy strategy for the next century. It warned against reductions in the size of the

coal industry based on the short or medium-term strategies of the electricity generating industry. It added: "If a significant proportion of the UK's coal reserves were abandoned, which we hope will not happen, resulting in a major reduction of long-term energy security, the government should understand that the country would see this not as a commercial decision, but as a largely irreversible decision of historic significance for the UK."

Many of the energy committee's concerns were repeated in a subsequent report, published this year, which called for an enquiry into privatised electricity.

The trade and industry

committee has extremely broad terms of reference. It will examine Britain's reserves of coal, oil and gas, look at how they are produced and suggest how fuel prices are likely to move in the future. It will then largely pre-empt the 1994 review of the nuclear industry by examining the cost of electricity from all sources, comparing Britain's strategy with practice elsewhere in Europe.

The committee will attempt to assess the impact of pit closures and electricity prices on the wider economy. Finally, it will seek to suggest how Britain's energy strategy might be improved.

Comment, page 38

CBI survey signals double-dip slump

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry will tomorrow provide evidence that Britain's economy is sliding into a double-dip recession.

Results from the CBI's third quarter industrial trends survey will paint a grim picture of declining confidence, excessive stocks, and renewed output falls in prospect.

The results will confirm last week's British Chambers of Commerce survey showing the recession on a second leg.

The only bright spot in the CBI survey of more than 1,400 companies is expected to be a modest increase in optimism over export prospects due to sterling's decline. That may slow the rate at which output is falling, but is unlikely to outweigh the damage to business confidence caused by government disarray over economic policy.

The damage to the economic outlook was confirmed yesterday by a forecast from the London Business School. It

concludes that continued recession has replaced inflation as the biggest risk to Britain's economic health.

According to LBS, output will continue to fall for another six months. Unemployment is forecast to rise above 3 million and remain there for at least three years.

Growth in gross domestic product next year will be just 0.9 per cent, and not until 1994 does GDP return to its peak of 1990. Increased public spending, rather than a recovery in consumer demand, will account for much of the eventual output improvement.

Inflation is expected to fall to 3.3 per cent next year, before rising to a peak of 5.3 per cent in 1995 because of devaluation. Currency weakness is forecast to compel a rise in base rates to 10 per cent to hold sterling at DM2.40. The devaluation is also predicted to result in a further widening of Britain's trade deficit, to £20 billion, next year.

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DI VERONA VICENZA-BELLUNO E ANCONA

Tobacco giant changes ads to lift flagging sales

Marlboro man bites the dust

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

THE Marlboro man, the advertising industry's handsome cowboy, exuding strength and individualism, appears to be losing his appeal. In the latest ads, he is missing. Brand analysts say his magic, which helped make Marlboro the world's best-selling cigarette, has worn thin after 30 years.

His owner, Philip Morris, the food and tobacco giant, is launching a new campaign, showing four tough-looking males white-water rafting. Wall Street is still shaking off the drenching it got last week after signs that the company's earnings growth was slowing. It was also disclosed that distributors had stocks of 16 billion to 20 billion of its cigarettes.

The shares fell almost \$10, to \$74, wiping more than \$8 billion off the value of the company. Almost three-quarters of profits come from cigarettes. This year's should be 20 per cent up at \$4.89



The end of a 30-year trail: Philip Morris's cowboy

billion, but Salomon Brothers has changed its recommendation from buy to hold and shaved next year's forecast by \$50 million to \$5.79 billion.

The worries are not all the fault of the fading Marlboro man. Philip Morris launched an expensive and, some say, ill-conceived attack on the cheap end of the cigarette market this year and was

badly burned in a price war. Marlboro's American market share has been falling — by 1.3 per cent in the third quarter, to 24 per cent. Necessity-driven smokers are sacrificing brand loyalty for price. The company's new promotional campaign, estimated to be costing \$200 million to \$300 million, is designed to get them back.

Touche Ross under regulators' scrutiny

By JON ASHWORTH

ACCOUNTANCY regulators are studying Touche Ross's role as auditor to Trafalgar House, the engineering, property and construction group that has been forced by the Financial Reporting Review Panel to restate 1991 pre-tax profits £102.7 million lower.

Touche, which gave the 1991 accounts a clean bill of health under existing accountancy regulations, has been referred to the investigation committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. This procedure, automatic in the case of panel rulings, may increase pressure on companies to re-examine their auditing practices.

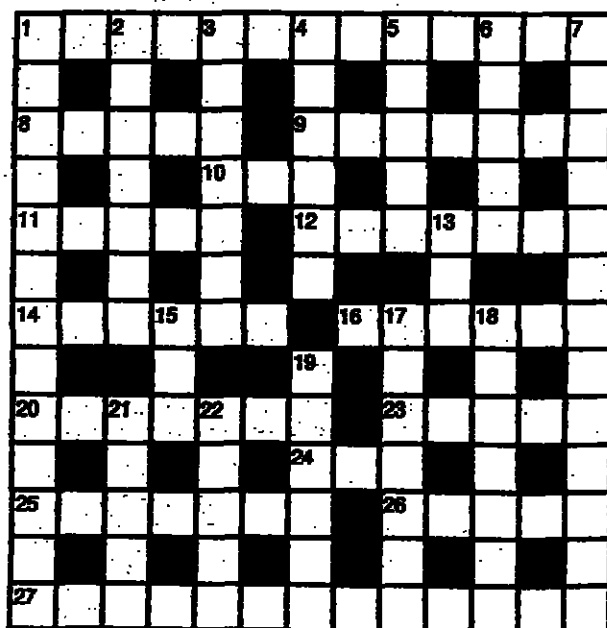
If the investigation committee finds a prima facie case for disciplinary action, the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee. This has

recourse to a variety of sanctions ranging from a reprimand to an unlimited fine.

Trafalgar House, which was forced to reduce pre-tax profits from £122.4 million to £19.7 million because of a property writedown, is the eighth and by far the highest-profile company to fall foul of the panel since the latter was set up in January 1991 to monitor the accounts of large companies.

Ultramar and Williams Holdings were the first to be singled out. Other companies to have had their knuckles rapped include GPG, Associated Nursing Services, Williamson Tea Holdings and Shield Group. Forte, the hotel group, was singled out for comment, but the panel stressed it was not being critical.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2928



DOWN

- 1 Contemner (13)
- 2 Whole number (7)
- 3 Reachable (2,5)
- 4 Forbidden subjects (6)
- 5 Precise (5)
- 6 Get round (5)
- 7 Cognizant (13)
- 8 Silent (3)
- 9 Kenya president (3)
- 10 Resilient (7)
- 11 European seabird (7)
- 12 Thwart (6)
- 13 Baster (5)
- 14 Radio blower (5)

ACROSS

- 1 Nuisance (4,2,3,4)
- 2 Tarka hero (5)
- 3 Swagger (7)
- 4 Fuss (3)
- 5 Instrument (5)
- 6 Porridge ingredient (7)
- 7 Named (6)
- 8 Did part-time work (6)
- 9 Skull back (7)
- 10 Get Your Gun musical (5)
- 11 Assent (3)
- 12 Alloy (7)
- 13 Thick digit (5)
- 14 Bubbler (1,3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2927

ACROSS: 1 Knacker 5 Leap 9 Rectal 10 Fling 11 Arch 12 Vir
tue 14 Occupy 15 Threat 19 Explode 21 Slap 24 Fleet 25 Free
bie 26 Lash 27 Spandrel
DOWN: 1 Kirk 2 Oscar 3 Knackup 4 Relive 6 Epitome 7 Regu-
late 8 Alar 13 Powerful 15 Cypress 17 Hasben 18 Bed up 20
Oath 22 Amber 23 Well

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Szabo — Ban, Budapest 1947. Black's king has no escape square from the back rank. This constitutes a serious lapse in security, which White proceeded to exploit. How?

Solution below.



Black without the defence was breached with 1 Qc5! which leaves

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